



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

July 5, 2022

Paula Barnes  
Central State Community Services, Inc.  
Suite 201  
2603 W Wackerly Rd  
Midland, MI 48640

RE: License #: AM250083741  
Investigation #: 2022A0580037  
Lara House

Dear Ms. Barnes:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.
- Indicate how continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- Be signed and dated.
- 

If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days. Failure to submit an acceptable corrective action plan will result in disciplinary action.

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (517) 284-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabrina McGowan". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed contact information.

Sabrina McGowan, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
611 W. Ottawa Street  
P.O. Box 30664  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(810) 835-1019

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>License #:</b>                     | AM250083741  |
| <b>Investigation #:</b>               | 2022A0580037   |
| <b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>        | 05/12/2022   |
| <b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b> | 05/17/2022   |
| <b>Report Due Date:</b>               | 07/11/2022   |
| <b>Licensee Name:</b>                 | Central State Community Services, Inc.               |
| <b>Licensee Address:</b>              | Suite 201<br>2603 W Wackerly Rd<br>Midland, MI 48640 |
| <b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>          | (989) 631-6691                                       |
| <b>Administrator:</b>                 | Paula Barnes   |
| <b>Licensee Designee:</b>             | Paula Barnes   |
| <b>Name of Facility:</b>              | Lara House   |
| <b>Facility Address:</b>              | 6151 W. Lake Road<br>Clio, MI 48420                  |
| <b>Facility Telephone #:</b>          | (810) 687-2350                                       |
| <b>Original Issuance Date:</b>        | 06/22/2001   |
| <b>License Status:</b>                | REGULAR  |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>                | 08/01/2020   |
| <b>Expiration Date:</b>               | 07/31/2022   |
| <b>Capacity:</b>                      | 12   |
| <b>Program Type:</b>                  | DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED<br>MENTALLY ILL             |

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

|   | <b>Violation<br/>Established?</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| It was reported to the GHS Office of Recipient Rights that Lara home staff were interrogating and harassing Resident A, who made a sexual abuse complaint against a staff member. | Yes                               |
| Additional Findings   | Yes                               |

## III. METHODOLOGY

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 05/12/2022 | Special Investigation Intake<br>2022A0580037  |
| 05/17/2022 | Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone<br>A call was made to Ms. Pat Sheppard, Genesee County Recipient Rights.                  |
| 06/14/2022 | Contact - Telephone call made<br>A call was made to Ms. Pat Sheppard, Genesee County Recipient Rights.                                |
| 06/14/2022 | Inspection Completed On-site<br>An onsite inspection was conducted with Recipient Rights. An interview was conducted with Resident A. |
| 06/15/2022 | Contact - Document Received<br>Emailed copies of the recordings made by staff Mr. Kris Walton were received from Recipient Rights.    |
| 06/29/2022 | Contact - Telephone call made<br>A call was made to staff, Ms. Israil Thomas.   |
| 06/29/2022 | Contact - Document Sent<br>An email was sent to Ms. Pat Shepard, Recipient Rights.  |
| 06/30/2022 | APS Referral<br>A call was made to Ms. Tiffany Williams, APS.   |
| 07/01/2022 | Contact-Telephone call made<br>A call was made to assigned public guardian, Mr. Eric Meade.   |
| 07/05/2022 | Exit Conference<br>A call was made to the licensee designee, Ms. Paula Barnes.  |

## **ALLEGATION:**

It was reported to the GHS Office of Recipient Rights that Lara home staff were interrogating and harassing Resident A, who made a sexual abuse complaint against a staff member.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

On 05/12/2022, I received a complaint via BCAL Online complaints.

On 05/17/2022, I spoke with Ms. Pat Shepard of Recipient Rights, Genesee County. She shared that there is reportedly an audio that was recorded by direct staff, Mr. Kris Walton, in which he and another staff member, Ms. Israil Thomas, appear to be harassing Resident A. Resident A recently made sexual abuse allegations against Mr. Walton. Mr. Walton is currently suspended from work, pending further investigation. Ms. Shepard indicated that the police are in possession of the audio and will release the information once their investigation is complete.

On 06/14/2022, I spoke with Ms. Pat Shepard. She indicated that she was able to speak with staff, Mr. Kris Walton, who sent her a copy of the audio, which she will share. Mr. Walton continues to be suspended from working at Lara House. A joint interview with Resident A was scheduled for later that day.

On 06/14/2022, I, along with Ms. Pat Shepard conducted an onsite inspection at Lara House AFC. An interview with Resident A was conducted outside. Resident A indicated that since the reported incident, staff Ms. Israil has been rude and mean to her, ignoring her most of the time while she is working. Ms. Shepard asked Resident A if she would listen to the audio to recollect the events of that day and to identify the voices. Resident A recalled the recording took place the day after allegations were made against staff, Mr. Kris Walton.

There were 3 voices on the audio, identified by Resident A as herself, staff members, Ms. Israil Thomas and Mr. Kris Walton. On the audio, staff, identified by Resident A as Mr. Kris Walton, asked Resident A questions such as: "Why you lie on me?", "You know I can get fired for you saying something like that. You should apologize". Staff, Ms. Israil Thomas asked questions such as: "Why you say he touched, you? He never touched you". "It's not cool lying on someone who never touched you or did anything to you." "You lied on him, right?" "Why you always lie on people?" "Why you jeopardizing his job, putting his life on the line?" "I'm a witness, he never did anything to you."

On 06/15/2022, I received copies of the three email recordings from Ms. Pat Shepard, sent to her by staff, Mr. Kris Walton.

On 06/29/2022, I made a call to direct staff, Ms. Israil Thomas. Ms. Thomas denied threatening or forcing Resident A to say anything. She indicated that on the day in question, Resident A went up to staff Mr. Kris Walton, wanting to apologize for

allegations previously made against him. Mr. Walton then decided he wanted to pull out his phone to record the interaction. Ms. Thomas stated that she then asked to speak with Resident A one on one before he began recording. Ms. Thomas recalled that while Mr. Walton was recording, she asked Resident A why she lied on Mr. Walton.

On 06/29/2022, I sent an email to Ms. Pat Shepard of Recipient Rights, inquiring about a valid phone number for staff, Mr. Kris Walton. She indicated that Mr. Walton is currently lodged in the Genesee County jail. She is unsure if it related to the sexual abuse allegations. Assigned APS investigator, Ms. Tiffany Williams may have more information. Ms. Shepard also verified that she will be substantiating for recording as well as harassment against both Mr. Walton and Ms. Thomas.

On 06/30/2022, I made a call to Ms. Tiffany Williams of Genesee Co APS. She indicated that based on the harassment, she will be substantiating for emotional abuse. She also verified that Mr. Kris Walton is currently incarcerated on a CSC 1<sup>st</sup> degree charge. He has not been convicted.

On 07/01/2022, a phone call was made to Mr. Eric Meade, assigned guardian for Resident A. I spoke with his assistant, Ms. Ashley Sopczynski. he indicated that they are currently searching for a new home for Resident A. She feels bad that Resident A finally has a home that she likes, with her own room, but she has to go due to the staff mistreatment. She does not believe that Resident A should have to leave her home. She believes the whole management and staff team at Lara House AFC home mishandled this matter by not taking Resident A seriously, allowing the opportunity for the harassment to occur.

| <b>APPLICABLE RULE</b> |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>R 400.14308</b>     | <b>Resident behavior interventions prohibitions.</b>  |
|                        | <b>(1) A licensee shall not mistreat a resident and shall not permit the administrator, direct care staff, employees, volunteers who are under the direction of the licensee, visitors, or other occupants of the home to mistreat a resident. Mistreatment includes any intentional action or omission which exposes a resident to a serious risk or physical or emotional harm or the deliberate infliction of pain by any means.</b> |
| <b>ANALYSIS:</b>       | <p>It was reported to the GHS Office of Recipient Rights that Lara home staff were interrogating and harassing Resident A, who made a sexual abuse complaint against a staff member.</p> <p>Ms. Pat Shepard, Genesee Co Recipient Rights, indicated that the interaction was recorded by staff, Mr. Kris Walton.</p> <p>The audio recordings were reviewed.</p>   |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | <p>Resident A identified herself, staff members, Ms. Israil Thomas and Mr. Kris Walton as the voices on the audio.</p> <p>Direct staff, Ms. Israil Thomas, denied threatening or forcing Resident A to say anything. Ms. Thomas recalled that while Resident A was being record, she asked Resident A why she lied on Mr. Walton.</p> <p>Ms. Pat Shepard, Genesee Co Recipient Rights, stated that she will be substantiating for recording as well as harassment against both Mr. Walton and Ms. Thomas.</p> <p>Ms. Tiffany Williams, Genesee Co APS, stated that based on the harassment, she will be substantiating for emotional abuse.</p> <p>Ms. Ashley Sopczynski, assistant to public guardian Mr. Eric Meade, indicated that they are currently searching for a new home for Resident A. She believes the whole management and staff team at Lara House AFC home mishandled this matter by not taking Resident A seriously, allowing the opportunity for the harassment to occur.</p> <p>Based on the information reviewed on the recordings, there is sufficient evidence to support the rule violation.</p> |
| <b>CONCLUSION:</b> | <b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>   |

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 06/14/2022, Resident A identified herself, staff members, Ms. Israil Thomas and Mr. Kris Walton as the three voices on the audio recording.

On 06/29/2022, direct staff, Ms. Israil Thomas stated that staff, Mr. Walton decided he wanted to pull out his phone to record the interaction with Resident A.

| <b>APPLICABLE RULE</b> |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>R 400.14304</b>     | <b>Resident rights; licensee responsibilities.</b>   |
|                        | <b>(1) Upon a resident's admission to the home, a licensee shall inform a resident or the resident's designated representative of, explain to the resident or the resident's designated representative, and provide to the resident or</b> |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | <p><b>the resident's designated representative, a copy of all of the following resident rights:</b></p> <p><b>(o) The right to be treated with consideration and respect, with due recognition of personal dignity, individuality, and the need for privacy.</b></p>   |
| <b>ANALYSIS:</b>   | <p>Resident A identified herself, staff members, Ms. Israil Thomas and Mr. Kris Walton as the three voices on the audio recording.</p> <p>Direct staff, Ms. Israil Thomas stated that staff, Mr. Walton decided he wanted to pull out his phone to record the interaction with Resident A.</p> <p>Based on the information gathered in the course of this investigation, there is sufficient evidence to support the rule violation.</p> |
| <b>CONCLUSION:</b> | <b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>   |

On 07/05/2022, I spoke with the licensee designee, Ms. Paula Barnes, for an exit conference. The licensing rule violations were explained. A corrective action plan was requested within 15 days.

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

Upon the receipt of an approved corrective action plan, no changes to the status of the license is recommended.



July 5, 2022

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Sabrina McGowan  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



July 5, 2022

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Mary E. Holton  
Area Manager

Date