



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

August 4, 2022

Rochelle Greenberg
Medical Alternatives Inc.
#120
24301 Catherine Ind. Dr.
Novi, MI 48375

RE: License #: AS630397262
Investigation #: 2022A0605035
Ripple Creek

Dear Mrs. Greenberg:

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.

A six-month provisional license is recommended. If you do not contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must indicate so in writing; this may be included in your corrective action plan or in a separate document. If you contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must notify this office in writing and an administrative hearing will be scheduled. Even if you contest the issuance of a provisional license, you must still submit an acceptable corrective action plan.

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.

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 (248) 975-5053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frodet Dawisha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frodet Dawisha, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Cadillac Place, Ste 9-100
Detroit, MI 48202
(248) 303-6348

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AS630397262
Investigation #:	2022A0605035
Complaint Receipt Date:	06/16/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	06/16/2022
Report Due Date:	08/15/2022
Licensee Name:	Medical Alternatives Inc
Licensee Address:	#120 24301 Catherine Ind. Dr Novi, MI 48375
Licensee Telephone #:	(248) 473-1139
Administrator/Licensee Designee:	Rochelle Greenberg
Name of Facility:	Ripple Creek
Facility Address:	23839 Ripple Creek Novi, MI 48375
Facility Telephone #:	(248) 473-1139
Original Issuance Date:	08/28/2019
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	02/28/2022
Expiration Date:	02/28/2024
Capacity:	6
Program Type:	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED TRAUMATICALLY BRAIN INJURED

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Fire Marshall Supervisor stated that the fire at the home on 06/05/2022 was due to discarded smoking materials in non-approved containers. There is extensive damage to the group home.	Yes
Additional Findings	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

06/16/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2022A0605035
06/16/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Telephone call with the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) Fire Marshal Supervisor, Larry DeWachter.
06/20/2022	Contact - Document Received I received the fire report along with pictures from licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg.
06/21/2022	Contact - Document Sent I emailed licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg requesting staff's contact information as to who was on shift at the time of the fire on 06/05/2022.
06/21/2022	Contact - Telephone call received Telephone call with licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg.
06/22/2022	Contact - Telephone call made I sent an email to fire marshal supervisor Larry DeWachter.
06/28/2022	Contact - Telephone call made I interviewed direct care staff (DCS) Destiny Horne regarding the allegations.
06/28/2022	Contact - Document Sent I submitted a request with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) requesting the arson investigation report.
06/28/2022	Contact - Telephone call made Left message for manager on duty, Yvette Blackwell.

06/28/2022	Contact - Telephone call received Interviewed Yvette Blackwell regarding the allegations.
07/27/2022	Inspection Completed On-site Conducted an on-site to observe the fire damage.
07/27/2022	Contact - Face to Face Interviewed Resident A.
08/01/2022	Exit Conference Conducted exit conference via telephone with licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg with my findings.

ALLEGATION:

Fire Marshall Supervisor stated that the fire at the home on 06/05/2022 was due to discarded smoking materials in non-approved containers. There is extensive damage to the group home.

INVESTIGATION:

On 06/16/2022, intake #187997 was assigned for investigation regarding a fire on 06/05/2022 at Ripple Creek home due to discarded smoking materials.

On 06/16/2022, I contacted Fire Marshall Supervisor Larry DeWachter with the Bureau of Fire and Safety. Mr. DeWachter stated the fire at Ripple Creek occurred due to discarded smoking materials in non-approved containers. He stated Oakland County Fire and Rescue is investigating and to follow up with them regarding their findings.

On 06/16/2022, I received the fire report from Novi Fire Department and pictures of the fire damage via email from licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg. I reviewed the fire report dated 06/05/2022. The fire started in the back of the home on the deck and there was extensive damage. All residents got out of the home safely.

On 06/21/2022, I emailed licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg emailed contact information of the direct care staff (DCS) that was on shift during the fire on 06/05/2022.

On 06/21/2022, I interviewed licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg regarding the allegations. Ms. Greenberg stated there are two residents that smoke cigarettes outside on the deck; however, the proper approved smoking container is used. Ms. Greenberg stated according to the fire investigation as well as her insurance investigator, the fire was accidental and undetermined. Ms. Greenberg stated all the residents were placed in one of Medical Alternatives, Inc., other group homes. She stated that there was extensive fire damage; therefore, the fire cleanup and rebuilding of Ripple Creek may take up to 6-months.

On 06/28/2022, I interviewed DCS Destiny Horne via telephone regarding the allegations. Ms. Horne has been employed with this corporation since 12/14/2020. She works second shift 3PM-11PM on the weekdays and third shift 11PM-7AM on the weekends. On 06/05/2022, she worked third shift from 11PM-7AM. There was supposed to be two persons on shift, but Yvette Blackwell who was the manager on duty had to transport another resident from another group home from the airport; therefore, she was working alone. She arrived at 11PM and all the residents were in their bedrooms sleeping. She passed one of the residents' medications around 11PM and then returned to the living room where she was working on her paperwork. While sitting in the living room she smelled fire. She immediately got up and checked each of the residents' bedrooms and did not see anything, so she returned to the living room and continued with her paperwork. Ms. Horne stated about 30 minutes later, the smoke smell intensified and then she saw fire in the back of the home near the deck. Ms. Horne immediately began evacuation and got the residents out. The fire department arrived and put out the fire. Ms. Horne stated she does not know how the fire started or what caused the fire. She reported that Residents B and C smoke cigarettes, but that these residents were sleeping when she began her shift, so no one smoked cigarettes during her shift.

On 06/28/2022, I interviewed manager on duty Yvette Blackwell via telephone regarding the allegations. Ms. Blackwell stated she worked third shift 11PM-7AM on 06/05/2022; however, she had to leave the beginning of her shift to pick up a resident from the airport and drop him off at another group home. Ms. Blackwell stated DCS Destiny Horne called her telling her there was a fire at Ripple Creek and that all the residents were evacuated safely. She stated she returned to Ripple Creek later that night and observed the fire damage. Ms. Blackwell stated there was damage to the back of the house where the deck was. She does not now how the fire started or what caused the fire. Ms. Blackwell stated the only residents that smoke cigarettes on the deck were Residents B and C.

On 07/05/2022, I received the fire investigation report via email from Oakland County Sheriff's Department. I reviewed the report, and based on the scene investigation, "the origin of the fire was on the deck. Careless smoking, or an unknown competent ignition source cannot be ruled out. The fire is classified as undetermined at this time."

On 07/27/2022, I conducted an on-site investigation at Ripple Creek to observe the fire damage. I met with licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg. A construction crew was working on the home. I observed the fire damage to the back living room wall adjacent to the deck in the backyard. There was extensive damage to the walls and upper loft area. All the drywall was removed from the entire home. Ms. Greenberg stated they will be remodeling the entire home and according to the construction crew, the home will probably not be ready for another four-five months. Ms. Greenberg stated the fire damage is more than \$5000 and that the cleanup and tearing out the walls cost about \$18,000. She will inform me once the home is ready for the residents to move back in.

On 07/27/2022, I interviewed Resident A face-to-face at The Burton Ranch where she was temporarily residing. Resident A is wheelchair bound and was wearing boot braces on both of her legs. Resident A stated she was in her bedroom watching TV when the fire began. She does not remember much but does remember two fire men getting her out of the house. Resident A stated she does not know how the fire started or what caused the fire. Resident A stated she used to smoke cigarettes, but she quit years ago.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.14403	Maintenance of premises.
	(15) A written report shall be made to the adult foster care licensing division of the department, the resident's designated representative, and the responsible agency within 48 hours, excluding holidays and weekends, of the occurrence of any fire and property damage of more than \$5,000.00
ANALYSIS:	Based on my investigation, the incident report was submitted within 48 hours of the fire on 06/05/2022 to adult foster care licensing division and the residents' designated representative.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.14403	Maintenance of premises.
	(1) A home shall be constructed, arranged, and maintained to provide adequately for the health, safety, and well-being of occupants.
ANALYSIS:	Based on my investigation and information gathered, the home was not constructed, arranged, and maintained to provide adequately for the health, safety, and well-being of the residents due to the extensive fire damage to Ripple Creek. On 06/05/2022, around 11:30 PM, there was a fire at Ripple Creek that caused extensive damage to the living room wall adjacent to the deck in the backyard. The fire originated from the deck, possibly smoking materials, but according to the fire investigation conducted by Oakland County Sheriff's Department, the cause of the fire was undetermined. However, all the residents evacuated safely and due to the fire, all five residents had to be placed in other group homes within Medical Alternatives, Inc. Due to the extensive fire damage being more than \$5000, Ripple Creek will be undergoing extensive fire cleanup and remodeling; therefore, residents will not be moving back into Ripple Creek for at least six-months.

CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

INVESTIGATION:

On 06/16/2022, I reviewed Novi Fire Department’s report dated 06/05/2022 and according to the report, “group home was having trouble getting larger lady out of residence.” Two fire men were able to evacuate Resident A safely out of Ripple Creek.

On 06/28/2022, I interviewed DCS Destiny Horne regarding the allegations. Ms. Horne stated there should have been two staff on shift on 06/05/2022, but due to manager on duty Yvette Blackwell transporting another resident from the airport, Ms. Horne was alone during the shift. Ms. Horne stated there should always be two staff per shift because Resident A is a two-person assist. Ms. Horne stated during the fire, she was able to evacuate four of the residents, but was unable to evacuate Resident A. Ms. Horne called 911 after she realized she was unable to evacuate Resident A and stated that within minutes of calling 911, the fire department arrived at the home and evacuated Resident A out safely. Ms. Horne stated Resident A was alone in the home for about two minutes before evacuated out of the home by Novi Fire Department.

On 06/28/2022, I interviewed manager on duty Yvette Blackwell regarding the allegations. Ms. Blackwell stated Resident A is a two-person on shift and that there is always two staff members working, but because she was manager on duty, she was contacted to transport the resident from the airport, leaving Ms. Horne alone with the residents. Ms. Blackwell stated this was an isolated incident and that Ms. Horne told Ms. Blackwell that she had to call 911 to evacuate Resident A because Ms. Horne was unable to.

On 07/27/2022, I interviewed Resident A regarding the allegations. Resident A stated she usually needs two staff persons to help transfer her out of bed onto her wheelchair. Resident A stated on the night of the fire, she recalls two fire men evacuating her from her room because there was only one staff working. Resident A stated she does not recall the name of the staff person working on 06/05/2022. Resident A stated during fire drills, there is always two staff persons working and helping her conduct the fire drills and evacuate safely outside. Resident A reported no concerns.

On 08/01/2022, I reviewed Ripple Creeks June staff schedule and according to the schedule, DCS Destiny Horne and manager on duty Yvette Blackwell were scheduled to work on 06/04/2022 third shift 11PM-7AM.

On 08/01/2022, I conducted the exit conference with licensee designee Rochelle Greenberg regarding my findings. Ms. Greenberg stated there are always two staff persons on shift, but on 06/05/2022, Yvette Blackwell was the manager on duty and was called to assist at another group home with transporting a resident. Ms. Greenberg

stated this was an isolated incident and that moving forward there will always be two staff persons on shift to provide for the care of Resident A and all the other residents. Ms. Greenberg stated she will continue to provide updates as to the remodeling of Ripple Creek due to the fire.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.14206	Staffing requirements.
	(2) A licensee shall have sufficient direct care staff on duty at all times for the supervision, personal care, and protection of residents and to provide the services specified in the resident's resident care agreement and assessment plan.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the review of Novi Fire Department's report completed on 06/05/2022, there was insufficient staff on shift to provide for the supervision and protection of Resident A. DCS Destiny Horne and manager on duty Yvette Blackwell were scheduled to work third shift from 11PM-7AM. However, Ms. Blackwell was called out of the home to assist in transporting a resident from the airport to another group home leaving Ms. Horne alone on shift. A fire occurred around 11:30PM and Ms. Horne was unable to evacuate Resident A who is a two-person assist. Ms. Horne called 911 and two fire men were able to safely evacuate Resident A out of the home.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Contingent upon receiving an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend modifying the license to a 6-month provisional license.

Frodet Dawisha

08/01/2022

Frodet Dawisha
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Denise Y. Nunn

08/04/2022

Denise Y. Nunn
Area Manager

Date