



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

October 17, 2023

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

RE: License #: AS500403212  
Investigation #: 2023A0990013  
Gruber Home

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.

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 cursive script that reads "L. Reed".

LaShonda Reed, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
Cadillac Place, Ste 9-100  
Detroit, MI 48202  
(586) 676-2877

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	AS500403212
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2023A0990013
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	09/05/2023
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	09/08/2023
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	11/04/2023
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Central State Community Services, Inc.
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	Suite 201 - 2603 W Wackerly Rd 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>	Gruber Home
<b>Facility Address:</b>	6545 Twenty-Four Mile Shelby Twp., MI 48047
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(586) 781-3494
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	01/20/2021
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	07/20/2023
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	07/19/2025
<b>Capacity:</b>	6
<b>Program Type:</b>	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
Administrator, Eva Hemphill used the EBT card of a deceased resident to make over \$1,800 in personal purchases.	Yes

## III. METHODOLOGY

09/05/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023A0990013
09/08/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - Letter I conducted a phone interview with the complainant.
09/08/2023	Contact - Telephone call made I contacted Central State University. I was connected to a person named Jamilia. I left a detailed voice message.
09/11/2023	Contact - Document Sent I emailed the licensee designee (LD) Paula Barnes and requested documents pertaining to the investigation.
09/12/2023	Contact - Telephone call made I conducted a phone interview with Becky Wahlney from the Office of Recipient Rights (ORR).
09/18/2023	Contact - Document Received I received documents requested pertaining to the complaint.
10/16/2023	Contact - Document Received I reviewed Ms. Hemphill's employe record and I reviewed Resident A's resident record.
10/17/2023	Exit Conference I conducted an exit conference with Paula Barnes, LD.

## **ALLEGATION:**

**Administrator, Eva Hemphill used the EBT card of a deceased resident to make over \$1,800 in personal purchases.**

## **INVESTIGATION:**

On 09/08/2023, I received the complaint via email. In addition to the above allegation, it was reported that Eva M. Hemphill was the Project Coordinator for Central State Community Services. Resident A passed away on 03/23/2023. After his death, Resident A's food assistance payments (FAP) benefits were fraudulently accessed via his EBT card by Ms. Hemphill. Ms. Hemphill has been the Program Coordinator at Gruber Home where Resident A had been a resident. Ms. Hemphill used Resident A's EBT card to conduct 15 transactions totaling \$1,853.16. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Office of Internal General (OIG) has an open case.

According to the OIG, Ms. Hemphill, knowingly used, transferred, acquired, altered, purchased, possessed, presented for redemption, or transported food stamps or coupons or accessed devices other than authorized by the food stamp act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 2011 to 2036.

On 09/08/2023, I conducted a phone interview with the complainant. The complainant reported that the OIG office receives many "death matches" for MDHHS FAP recipients. Ms. Hemphill was interviewed by the complainant and admitted to using the EBT card after Resident A passed away. Ms. Hemphill reported that she used the EBT for food for the home. The complainant said that Ms. Hemphill was immediately terminated from the group home. The complainant said the food purchases made were not food for a group home. There were multiple purchases of "junk food" such as an abundance of candy, soda, chips and snacks. The complainant said that a felony warrant has been issued Ms. Hemphill. The complainant said that Central State Community Services, reported if there is a deficit in the amount needed for food for the home because a resident's EBT card did not have money, they have petty cash therefore, it was unnecessary to use a deceased resident's EBT card. The complainant said that Ms. Hemphill used Resident A's card exclusively. Ms. Hemphill did not use the other resident's EBT card fraudulently. The complainant said that Ms. Hemphill has been employed at Central State University for 20 years. The complainant said that he would send the EBT transactions of the fraudulent purchases. The EBT transactions were received from the complainant.

On 09/12/2023, I conducted a phone interview with Becky Wahlney from the Office of Recipient Rights (ORR). Ms. Wahlney had a recent investigation for Gruber Home, but it was not regarding Resident A's EBT card. Ms. Wahlney said that all the residents in the home are nonverbal. I informed Ms. Wahlney of the details regarding Ms. Hemphill's conduct and Ms. Wahlney believes she heard of the allegations but was unsure if this will be investigated because Resident A is deceased.

On 10/16/2023, I reviewed Ms. Hemphill's employee record and Resident A's resident record. Resident A passed away on March 23, 2023, at the hospital. I reviewed Resident A's *Resident Funds I*. Section A of *Resident Funds I* lists Resident A as his own legal guardian. Section B documents that Central State Community Services are responsible for Resident A's adult foster care (AFC) payments. I reviewed Resident A's *Resident Funds II* and the transactions are for AFC payment. The AFC payments were monthly from 08/01/2022 to 03/27/2023. and consistent until his passing. I reviewed the MDHHS EBT history and there were 15 transactions from 06/22/2023 to 07/15/2023 in the amount of \$1,853.16 used after Resident A passed away.

I reviewed Ms. Hemphill's employee file. Ms. Hemphill is fully trained and was the Program Coordinator and administrator for Gruber Home. I reviewed Ms. Hemphill discipline file and there were two incidents of medication errors 18-20 years ago and one failure to timely report an incident in 2011. There was discipline for excessive use of overtime in 2003 and 2010.

I reviewed the staff schedule. Ms. Hemphill worked the day shift which ended at 4PM. Ms. Hemphill used Resident A's EBT ten times while scheduled to work and five times on days she was not scheduled to work. Ms. Hemphill used Resident A's EBT card four times after work hours on scheduled workdays. Ms. Hemphill used the EBT card at various stores such as Walmart Supercenter, Kroger, and Meijer. I reviewed the menus, and the meals were adequate. I reviewed the *Resident Register*, there are five current residents.

On 10/17/2023, I conducted an exit conference with Paula Barnes, (LD). Ms. Barnes was informed of the findings and agreed to submit a corrective action plan (CAP). I advised that a policy should be implemented with managers to surrender residents EBT/debit cards after they pass away. Ms. Barnes said that Ms. Hemphill's conduct is alarming because she had been employed with the company for 20 years.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.14315</b>	<b>Handling of resident funds and valuables.</b>
	<b>(10) A licensee, administrator, direct care staff, other employees, volunteers under the direction of the licensee, and members of their families shall not accept, take, or borrow money or valuables from a resident, even with the consent of the resident.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	There is evidence that Eva Hemphill the former program coordinator and administrator for Gruber Home fraudulently used deceased Resident A's EBT card for personal use. Ms. Hemphill used \$1,856.16 for personal usage 15 times. Ms. Hemphill was terminated immediately.

	According to the OIG office, the transactions were for purchases for “junk food” and was not conducive for purchases typical for an AFC home. The OIG office reported that there are pending felony charges against Ms. Hemphill. According to the OIG office, the other resident EBT cards were reviewed, and the purchases were consistent for the adult foster care home and raised no concern.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

Contingent upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend no change in the license status.

*L. Reed*

10/17/2023

LaShonda Reed  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

*Denise Y. Nunn*

10/18/2023

Denise Y. Nunn  
Area Manager

Date