



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

November 20, 2023

Catherine Reese  
New Friends Dementia Community, LLC  
3700 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

RE: License #: AL390299685  
Investigation #: 2024A1024001  
Vibrant Life Senior Living Kalamazoo Lodge 1

Dear Ms. Reese:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. No substantial violations were found.

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 (616) 356-0183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ondrea Johnson".

Ondrea Johnson, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
427 East Alcott  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	AL390299685
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2024A1024001
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	09/25/2023
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	09/25/2023
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	11/24/2023
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	New Friends Dementia Community, LLC
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	3700 W Michigan Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49006
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(269) 372-6100
<b>Administrator:</b>	Laurel Space
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Catherine Reese
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Vibrant Life Senior Living Kalamazoo Lodge 1
<b>Facility Address:</b>	3700 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(269) 372-6100
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	06/21/2011
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/21/2021
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	12/20/2023
<b>Capacity:</b>	20
<b>Program Type:</b>	ALZHEIMERS AGED

**II. ALLEGATION(S)**

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
The office of the facility smelled of marijuana. There is a concern a staff member is selling marijuana-based products at the facility.	No

**III. METHODOLOGY**

09/25/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2024A1024001
09/25/2023	APS Referral not required as no allegation of abuse or neglect made.
09/25/2023	Special Investigation Initiated – Telephone with a former anonymous direct care staff member
10/03/2023	Contact - Telephone call made with direct care staff member Tkiah Grace
10/03/2023	Contact - Telephone call received-anonymous direct care staff member
10/09/2023	Inspection Completed On-site-with direct care staff member Alexis Craft, Tierra Boyd, Teddy Anderson, Regina Kimble, Cory Shell
11/15/2023	Contact - Telephone call made with licensee designee Catherine Reese
11/15/2023	Exit Conference with licensee designee Catherine Reese

**ALLEGATION: The office of the facility smelled of marijuana. There is concern a staff member is selling marijuana-based products at the facility.**

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 9/25/2023, I received this complaint through the Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS) online complaint system. This complaint alleged the AFC facility office smelled of marijuana and there is concern a staff member is selling marijuana-based products at the facility.

On 9/25/2023, I conducted an interview with former direct care staff member #1 who stated direct care staff member Cory Shell, who works in the kitchen, sells marijuana products such as brownies to direct care staff members at the facility. Former direct

care staff member #1 stated she knows this because she purchased brownies from him prior to her terminating her employment. Former direct care staff #1 stated she has never seen the marijuana brownies in the facility however when she received her purchased brownies from Cory Shell, she was outside on the property of the facility. Former direct care staff member #1 stated she has never seen any staff members impaired or under the influence of substances to her knowledge and has no knowledge of any direct care staff members not being able to provide adequate care to residents.

On 10/03/2023, I conducted an interview with direct care staff member Tkiah Grace who stated that she is a former employee of the facility and has heard rumors that kitchen staff member Cory Shell sells marijuana products to staff members however has no direct knowledge of this. Tkiah Grace stated she has never seen any marijuana products in the facility, nor has she seen any direct care staff member impaired or under the influences of substances. Tkiah Grace stated she believes Cory Shell is the facility's kitchen chef and does not provide direct care to the residents.

On 10/03/2023, I conducted an interview with Former Direct Care Staff #2 who stated the facility's chef, Cory Shell, has sold marijuana products to former staff members while on the facility's property according to rumors, and he has seen edibles on the counter in the kitchen in the past. Former direct care staff member #2 stated he has seen ice cream which is also a marijuana made product in the facility's freezer also. Former direct care staff member #2 stated he knows that the products in the kitchen were marijuana edibles because Cory Shell provided this information to him. Former direct care staff member #2 stated although he has not seen any staff member consume these products or believe staff members have been under the influence of marijuana while working, he has smelled marijuana in the kitchen before when he has seen these marijuana edible products on the kitchen counter.

On 10/09/2023, I conducted an onsite investigation at the facility with direct care staff members Alexis Craft, Tierra Boyd, Teddy Anderson, and Regina Kimber who all stated that they have no knowledge of any staff members including Cory Shell selling marijuana products at the facility or outside the facility nor have they seen any marijuana products anywhere in the facility. These staff members also stated that they have never seen any direct care staff members impaired or under the influence of substances and have no reason to believe that any direct care staff member is not suitable to work with residents in the home. Alexis Craft further stated that she heard that a former staff member who was terminated from his employment at Vibrant Life Senior Living sent a message to management stating that he was going to make a complaint about Cory Shell because they had an argument prior to this employee being terminated. Alexis Craft stated it is believed this former staff member is making a false complaint against Cory Shell due to their argument.

While at the facility, I also conducted an interview with staff member Cory Shell who stated that he does not sell marijuana products at the facility and has never sold to any staff members on the facility's premises, nor does he bring marijuana products in the facility. Cory Shell stated he is a licensed chef and makes edibles as a secondary

private business which is unrelated to his employment at Vibrant Life Senior Living where he is the facility's chef. Cory Shell stated that he tries to keep his private business discrete however there are former staff members that he was friends with outside of work who was aware that he had a private business of selling marijuana edible products and had purchased products from him however these purchases were never made on the facility's premises. Cory Shell stated years ago there was an incident involving a staff member that he privately informed that he was leaving work to deliver marijuana products to a staff member and disclosed that his products were already packaged ready to be delivered in his vehicle. Cory Shell stated this former direct care staff member had an argument with him and during this argument stated that he was going to bring up this incident and falsely accuse him of selling his marijuana products in the facility. Cory Shell stated he has no knowledge of any direct care staff members impaired or under the influence of any substances while at work and do not believe many staff members are aware of his private business.

While at the facility, I observed the premises of the facility to be clean and appropriate with no smell of marijuana present.

On 11/15/2023, I conducted an interview with licensee designee Catherine Reese who stated she was made aware of this allegation by Cory Shell and has no knowledge of any direct care staff members impaired or under the influence of marijuana or any other substance. Catherine Reese stated she also has not heard any complaints made from any staff members regarding Cory Shell or any other staff member selling marijuana products at the facility, nor does she have knowledge of marijuana edible products being at the facility. Catherine Reese stated she has no reason to believe that any staff member is not suitable to provide adequate care for the residents.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.15204</b>	<b>Direct care staff; qualifications and training.</b>
	<b>(2) Direct care staff shall possess all of the following qualifications:</b> <b>(a) Be suitable to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social needs of each resident.</b>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Based on my investigation which included interviews with two former direct care staff members, direct care staff members Tkiah Grace, Alexis Craft, Tierra Boyd, Teddy Anderson, and Regina Kimber, Cory Shell, and licensee designee Catherine Reese there was no evidence of the facility smelling of marijuana or of staff member Cory Shell selling marijuana based products out of the facility. Tkiah Grace, Alexis Craft, Tierra Boyd, Teddy Anderson, Regina Kimber and Catherine Reese all stated that they have no knowledge of any staff members including Cory Shell selling marijuana products at the facility or outside the facility nor have they seen any marijuana products anywhere in the facility. These staff members also stated that they have never seen any staff members impaired or under the influence of substances and have no reason to believe that any staff member is not suitable to work with residents in the home. Cory Shell also denied this allegation and stated he has not sold any marijuana products to any staff members at the facility, nor has he brought marijuana products inside the facility. Staff is suitable to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social needs of each resident.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

On 11/15/2023, I conducted an exit conference with licensee designee Catherine Reese. I informed Catherine Reese of my findings and allowed her an opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend the current license status remain unchanged.



Ondrea Johnson  
Licensing Consultant

11/15/2023  
Date

Approved By:



11/20/2023

Dawn N. Timm  
Area Manager

Date