



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
DIRECTOR

October 13, 2025

John Lewis  
325 State Street  
Harbor Beach, MI 48441

RE: License #: AL320297229  
Investigation #: 2025A0623049  
Karen's Place

Dear John Lewis:

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 (989) 643-7960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Badour".

Cynthia Badour, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
411 Genesee  
P.O. Box 5070  
Saginaw, MI 48605  
(517) 648-8877

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	AL320297229
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2025A0623049
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	08/25/2025
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	08/25/2025
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	10/24/2025
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	John Lewis
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	325 State Street Harbor Beach, MI 48441
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(810) 767-6768
<b>Administrator:</b>	John Lewis
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	N/A
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Karen's Place
<b>Facility Address:</b>	325 State St. Harbor Beach, MI 48441
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(989) 479-3465
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	10/23/2012
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	08/12/2024
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	08/11/2026
<b>Capacity:</b>	13
<b>Program Type:</b>	DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED MENTALLY ILL AGED

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
The homeowner allows Resident A and Resident B to burn pallets and trash in the backyard of the facility.	No
Additional Findings	No

## III. METHODOLOGY

08/25/2025	Special Investigation Intake 2025A0623049
08/25/2025	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone I contacted Complainant.
08/26/2025	Inspection Completed On-site Observation and interviews.
08/26/2025	Contact - Document Received I received AFC documents.
09/02/2025	Contact - Telephone call made I contacted Licensee John Lewis and Resident B.
09/30/2025	APS Referral I completed an APS referral
10/08/2025	Contact - Telephone call made I contacted Harbor Beach Police Chief Todd Bucholtz.
10/10/2025	Contact - Telephone call made I contacted Huron Behavioral Health case manager Joy Dise.
10/10/2025	Contact - Telephone call made I contacted Guardian A.
10/13/2025	Special Investigation – Full Compliance
10/13/2025	Exit Conference I completed an exit conference with Licensee John Lewis.

## **ALLEGATION:**

**The homeowner allows Resident A and Resident B to burn pallets and trash in the backyard of the facility.**

## **INVESTIGATION:**

On 08/25/2025, I contacted the Complainant. Complainant voiced concerns about pallets and trash taken from the nearby Subway dumpster and burned in the fire pit in the backyard. Complainant stated that the police had come out, and nothing was done. Complainant stated that fallen branches from nearby trees are also taken and burned. Complainant is concerned for the two residents

On 08/26/2025, I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection. I observed the area of the fire pit, which had a metal fire ring and rocks surrounding the edge of the pit. The area was clear of any debris and the ashes in the pit did not emit any heat when I put my hand near them. I interviewed staff Tina Frost and Resident B. Per staff Frost, Licensee John Lewis and Resident A were not at the home as they had left to visit a friend.

On 08/26/2025, I interviewed staff Tina Frost. Staff Frost stated that the fire pit has been there for years without any issues. Staff Frost stated that papers or boxes/pallets are broken down into smaller pieces because some residents like Resident A and Resident B like to watch the fire. Staff Frost stated that staff are able to supervise as they can see from the wrap around porch or the window in the back door.

On 08/26/2025, I interviewed Resident B. Resident B appeared clean, neatly groomed and dressed for the weather. Resident B appeared alert and oriented x4 (person, place, time and situation). Resident B stated that they like to have a fire in the fire pit most days. Resident B stated that they do not burn garbage, just papers, yard clippings and some boxes and wood pallets that are broken down into smaller pieces. Resident B stated that staff are always aware that a fire is being started and is totally put out when done. Resident B denied going into dumpsters looking for items to burn.

On 08/26/2025, I received and reviewed AFC documents. Resident A's assessment plan and health appraisal were reviewed. Resident A is fully ambulatory, has full unsupervised access to the community, no case manager, and has a guardian.

Resident B's assessment plan and health appraisal were reviewed. Resident B is fully ambulatory, has full unsupervised access to the community, and has a case manager named Joy Dise.

On 09/02/2025, I contacted Licensee John Lewis. Licensee Lewis stated that they had been using the fire pit in the backyard for years without any problems until recently. Licensee Lewis stated that the neighbor has issues with the property easement and residents using the fire pit. Licensee Lewis stated that the police have been out multiple

times and there is nothing illegal going on. Licensee Lewis denied that any resident is going to the Subway dumpster to get garbage and pallets to burn.

On 09/02/2025, I contacted Resident A. Resident A stated that he likes to use the fire pit. Resident A stated that they do not burn garbage, only papers and old boxes, branches and sometimes wood is broken into pieces to make it easier. Resident A stated there are always staff available to supervise. Resident A denied taking trash from the Subway dumpster to burn.

On 09/30/2025, I completed an Adult Protective Service (APS) referral. I shared information with APS. The complaint was denied by Centralized intake for investigation.

On 10/08/2025, I contacted Harbor Beach Police Chief Todd Bucholtz. Chief Bucholtz stated that residents in Harbor Beach are allowed to have a small fire ring like the one at Karen's Place. Chief Bucholtz stated that there is no need for a permit, there is a city ordinance that covers small fire pits. Chief Bucholtz stated that there is a dispute regarding an easement between properties and they have been told any review of the easement would require a survey to be completed. Chief Bucholtz stated he has been out to Karen's Place, and the fire pit meets specifications in accordance with the ordinance.

On 10/10/2025, I contacted Huron Behavioral Health case manager Joy Dise. I left a voice mail message.

On 10/10/2025, I contacted Resident A's guardian, Guardian A. Guardian A stated that they have no concerns with Resident A's care or supervision at the home. Guardian A stated that Resident A can go out into the community and participate in home activities.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.15305</b>	<b>Resident protection.</b>
	<b>(3) A resident shall be treated with dignity and his or her personal needs, including protection and safety, shall be attended to at all times in accordance with the provisions of the act.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The allegation stated the homeowner allows Resident A and Resident B to burn pallets and trash in the backyard of the facility.  I interviewed Complainant, Staff Tina Frost, Resident A and Resident B, Licensee John Lewis, Guardian A and Harbor

	<p>Beach Police Chief Todd Bucholtz. I reviewed AFC documentation.</p> <p>According to Chief Bucholtz, there has been no ordinance violation with regards to the fire pit and residents are allowed to have them. Chief Bucholtz stated there is a dispute regarding an easement between Karen's Place and a neighboring home. Chief Bucholtz stated that he has advised the parties that any review of the easement would require a property owner to hire a survey to be completed.</p> <p>I conclude there is insufficient evidence to substantiate this rule violation.</p>
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

On 10/13/2025, I completed an exit conference with Licensee John Lewis. I explained my investigation and findings. Licensee Lewis did not have any questions.

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend no change in the status of this license.

*Cynthia Badour*

10/13/2025

Cynthia Badour  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

*Mary Holton*

10/13/2025

Mary E. Holton  
Area Manager

Date