



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

November 21, 2025

Caleb Brokaw
Sunnyside Assisted Living II, LLC
3025 W Birch Run Road
Burt, MI 48417

RE: License #: AM730340435
Investigation #: 2026A0576002
Sunnyside Home

Dear Caleb Brokaw:

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.
- 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) 643-7960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Garza".

Christina Garza, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
(810) 240-2478

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT
THIS REPORTS CONTAIN QUOTED PROFANITY**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	AM730340435
Investigation #:	2026A0576002
Complaint Receipt Date:	09/29/2025
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/03/2025
Report Due Date:	11/28/2025
Licensee Name:	Sunnyside Assisted Living II, LLC
Licensee Address:	3025 W Birch Run Road, Burt, MI 48417
Licensee Telephone #:	(989) 770-4760
Administrator:	Caleb Brokaw
Licensee Designee:	Caleb Brokaw
Name of Facility:	Sunnyside Home
Facility Address:	3025 Birch Run Road, Burt, MI 48417
Facility Telephone #:	(989) 770-4760
Original Issuance Date:	12/12/2014
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	06/12/2025
Expiration Date:	06/11/2027
Capacity:	8
Program Type:	PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, MENTALLY ILL, DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED, AGED, TRAUMATICALLY BRAIN INJURED

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Resident A resides at Sunnyside Home and has multiple disabilities. On September 20, 2025, Staff Sadie Hitsman told Resident A she could starve if she did want to eat what was being served for breakfast.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

09/29/2025	Special Investigation Intake 2026A0576002
09/29/2025	APS Referral
10/03/2025	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Left message for Guardian A1 to return call
10/31/2025	Inspection Completed On-site Interviewed Resident A, Resident B, Staff David Smith and Rachael Weber
11/18/2025	Contact - Telephone call made Left message for Savannah Hernandez, Case Manager to return call
11/18/2025	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed Staff Pebbles Keith
11/19/2025	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed Judy Saucedo, Saginaw County Office of Recipient Rights (ORR)
11/20/2025	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed Savannah Hernandez
11/20/2025	Contact - Telephone call made Interviewed Staff, Sadie Hitsman
11/20/2025	Contact - Document Received Reviewed Incident Report
11/21/2025	Contact - Telephone call made

	Interviewed Guardian A1
11/21/2025	Exit Conference

ALLEGATION:

Resident A resides at Sunnyside Home and has multiple disabilities. On September 20, 2025, Staff Sadie Hitsman told Resident A she could starve if she did want to eat what was being served for breakfast.

INVESTIGATION:

On October 3, 2025, I left a message for Resident A's guardian, Guardian A1 to return call. On November 21, 2025, I interviewed Guardian A1 who advised he is also the guardian to Resident B, Resident C, and Resident D. Guardian A1 reported that he is not aware of the allegations and he believes the home offers menu substitutions. Resident A continues to reside at the home, and he believes the home staff is receptive to Resident A and all the residents. The 4 residents Guardian A1 is the guardian to are all verbal and they have not reported any concerns to him regarding staff behavior.

On October 31, 2025, I conducted an unannounced on-site inspection at Sunnyside Home and interviewed Staff David Smith regarding the allegations. Staff Smith explained that 3rd shift staff prepares resident breakfast. Staff Pebbles Keith and Staff Sadie Hitsman were working on September 20, 2025, and Staff Smith worked later in the day. Resident A reported to Staff Smith that Staff Hitsman said she would not make any substitutions to the breakfast menu, and Resident A could eat oatmeal or starve. Resident A has lived at the home for 6 years and usually tells the truth. Although Staff Smith was not witness to the allegation, he believed it could be true. Staff Smith has worked with Staff Hitsman in the past and he has never noticed anything concerning about her behavior toward residents. No resident has ever complained to him about Staff Hitsman prior to now however staff have voiced concerns about Staff Hitsman. Staff Smith told Resident A she could have whatever she would like for breakfast, and he told the manager about the allegations. Staff Smith did not speak to Staff Hitsman about the allegations and later, Staff Hitsman brought it up. Staff Hitsman alleged that Staff Keith was the one who said Resident A could starve. Staff Smith did not believe Staff Keith would say this to Resident A.

On October 31, 2025, I interviewed Staff Rachael Weber regarding the allegations. Staff Weber stated she heard about the allegations however she could not recall from who. Staff Weber has worked with Staff Hitsman in the past and described her as "stern but never disrespectful". Staff Hitsman is "loud and sometimes her tone can be off" so much so that Staff Weber has corrected her. Staff Weber reported that it is her understanding that Staff Hitsman reported that Staff Keith is the one who was disrespectful to Resident A. Staff Weber has worked with Staff Keith and Staff Weber

does not believe Staff Keith would say anything disrespectful to Resident A. Weber reported that Resident A is credible but sometimes tells stories. Although Staff Weber did not witness the allegations, she believed they could be true.

On October 31, 2025, I interviewed Resident A regarding the allegations, and she reported they are true. Staff Hitsman said she was not going to prepare cereal for Resident A and that oatmeal was being served. Staff Hitsman said Resident A “could starve” and Staff Pebbles Keith heard this. Resident A told the manager the next day. Resident A reported that Staff Hitsman is rude and disrespectful. Resident A reported that Staff Keith is a good staff person.

On October 31, 2025, I interviewed Resident B regarding the allegations. Resident B did not remember hearing Resident A being told she could starve however he is aware that Resident A did not eat breakfast on the day of the allegations. Resident B reported he gets along with Staff Hitsman, and she has not been rude or disrespectful toward him.

On November 18, 2025, I interviewed Staff Pebbles Keith regarding the allegations. Staff Keith reported she was working with Staff Sadie Hitsman and Staff Keith told Staff Hitsman that Resident A does not like oatmeal. Resident A told Staff Hitsman that she did not want oatmeal and Staff Hitsman told Resident A she “could starve”. Resident A became upset and mumbled, something she does when she is angry. Resident A said, “that’s fucking stupid, I don’t want anything now.” Resident A left the table and went to her bedroom. According to Staff Keith, Resident A was offered cereal and declined to eat anything. When Staff Keith heard Staff Hitsman say Resident A could starve she told Staff Hitsman that she cannot say things like that, and Staff Hitsman response was that she was not making accommodations for everyone. Staff Keith reported that Staff Hitsman accused her of being the one who said Resident A could starve however that is not true and she would never say this.

On November 19, 2025, I interviewed Judy Saucedo, Saginaw County Office of Recipient Rights (ORR) Investigator who confirmed she is investigating this matter. According to Investigator Saucedo, the 2 staff members accused each other of saying Resident A “could starve”. Resident A reported that Staff Sadie Hitsman told Resident A she could not have cereal, and she would not accommodate her. Staff Hitsman told Resident A if she did not want oatmeal, she would not eat breakfast. Investigator Saucedo reported that she has not yet completed her investigation.

On November 20, 2025, I interviewed Resident A’s Case Manager, Savannah Hernandez from Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority. Case Manager Hernandez reported that Resident A reported the allegations to her therapist, and the therapist documented the allegations. The Office of Recipient was made aware of the allegations and are investigating the matter. Case Manager Hernandez addressed the allegations with the home and Case Manager Hernandez believed Resident A was offered choices for breakfast, however Resident A did not want them. According to Case Manager Hernandez it is documented that Staff Sadie Hitsman told Resident A she “could starve”

and Case Manager Hernandez is unsure if this is true. Case Manager Hernandez thought maybe it could have been said in a joking manner if it indeed was said by the staff.

On November 20, 2025, I interviewed Staff Sadie Hitsman regarding the allegations. Staff Hitsman reported Resident A was having a behavior. Resident A did not like oatmeal and Staff Hitsman gave her options including cereal, a pop tart, or leftovers. Resident A did not want any of the options Staff Hitsman offered. Staff Hitsman asked Staff Pebbles Keith what to do and Staff Keith said if Resident A did not want what is for breakfast she can starve. Staff Hitsman is not sure if Resident A heard the comment made by Staff Keith because Resident A was in the living room by the television and Staff Keith "said it low".

On November 20, 2025, I viewed a document entitled "Staff Action Regarding Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation". The document stated that on September 20, 2025, at breakfast time, staff were making oatmeal. Resident A told staff she did not like oatmeal and wanted cereal. Staff said "no" and if Resident A "did not like it, the oatmeal, then I (Resident A) could starve." Alleged victim is listed as Resident A and alleged perpetrator name is listed as "Sadie (group home worker)".

On November 21, 2025, I interviewed Licensee Designee, Caleb Brokaw who reported that he was told that what Resident A wanted for breakfast was not in the home as it had been eaten prior. Staff are aware that there is a substitute menu staff are to use when needed.

On November 21, 2025, I conducted an exit conference with Licensee Designee, Caleb Brokaw and advised him of the findings of my investigation. I advised Licensee Designee Brokaw I would be requesting a corrective action plan for the cited rule violation.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.681	Resident rights; licensee responsibilities.
	(1) A resident shall be treated with dignity and respect, free from exploitation, and protected and safe.
ANALYSIS:	<p>It was alleged that Staff, Sadie Hitsman told Resident A she could starve after Resident A did not want what was being served for breakfast. Upon conclusion of investigative interviews, there is a preponderance of evidence to conclude a rule violation.</p> <p>Resident A was interviewed and confirmed that allegations to be true. Resident A reported Staff Hitsman said Resident A could starve after Resident A did not want oatmeal for breakfast. Resident A has been consistent with her statements to others that Staff Hitsman said she could starve after not wanting to eat</p>

	<p>oatmeal. Staff Pebbles Keith reported that Staff Hitsman told Resident A she could starve if she did not want to eat what was being served for breakfast. Staff Hitsman denied making the statement to Resident A that she could starve and attributed the statement to Staff Keith.</p> <p>There is a preponderance of evidence to conclude staff did not treat Resident A with dignity and respect by tell her she "could starve".</p>
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

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

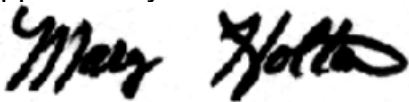


11/21/2025

Christina Garza
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



11/21/2025

Mary E. Holton
Area Manager

Date