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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

December 14, 2021

Emily Schab
Bethany Christian Services Inc-Grand Rapids
901 Eastern Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294

RE: License #: CB410200976
Investigation #: 2022C0212002
Bethany Christian Services Inc-Grand Rapids

Dear Mrs. Schab:

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.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

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 note that violations of any licensing rules are also violations of the MISEP and your contract.

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 area manager at (616) 204-6992.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heather Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Reilly, Licensing Consultant
MDHHS\Division of Child Welfare Licensing
22 Center Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 660-8309

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE LICENSING
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CB410200976
Investigation #:	2022C0212002
Complaint Receipt Date:	11/22/2021
Investigation Initiation Date:	11/22/2021
Report Due Date:	01/21/2022
Licensee Name:	Bethany Christian Services Inc
Licensee Address:	901 Eastern Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Licensee Telephone #:	(616) 224-7610
Administrator:	Emily Schab, Administrator
Licensee Designee:	George Tyndall, Designee
Name of Facility:	Bethany Christian Services Inc-Grand Rapids
Facility Address:	901 Eastern Avenue, NE Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294
Facility Telephone #:	(616) 459-6273
Original Issuance Date:	10/01/1994
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	09/28/2020
Expiration Date:	09/27/2022
Capacity:	Unknown
Program Type:	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

II. ALLEGATION

	Violation Established?
Agency did not complete the required monthly contact between siblings.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

11/22/2021	Special Investigation Intake 2022C0212002
11/22/2021	Special Investigation Initiated – Phone call attempted. Email with CA regarding allegation.
11/22/2021	Contact - Document Sent Email with FC Supervisor
12/03/2021	Contact - Document Sent Email with CA to schedule interviews
12/03/2021	Contact - Document Received Reviewed case files
12/08/2021	Contact - Face to Face Video call interview with FC worker and Supervisor
12/08/2021	Meeting with DCWL Area Manager to discuss findings.
12/08/2021	Pre-exit with Program Manager
12/13/2021	Pre-exit with Chief Administrator

ALLEGATION:

Agency did not complete the required monthly contact between siblings.

INVESTIGATION:

On 11/22/2021 it was reported to DCWL that the agency did not complete monthly contact between siblings as required. The source provided documentation regarding the foster care case to support the allegation. The documentation was reviewed prior to contacting the agency to initiate the investigation.

Chief Administrator

On 11/22/2021 the agency's Chief Administrator was contacted and notified of the allegation. The CA reported the agency was aware of the possible violation and provided contact information for the Foster Care Worker(FCW) and the Program Manager(PM) as she was involved in the case prior to the FCW.

Foster Care Worker & Program Manager

On 12/8/2021 a joint interview was conducted with the FCW and PM. The PM reported she had a longer history with the case as the FCW was just assigned to it in August 2021. The PM reported the younger siblings were placed with one another until August 2021, therefore no sibling visits were required. However, during a recent court hearing it was identified there were missed visitation opportunities for the two younger children with their older sibling, Child C. The PM stated Child C was in multiple placements including hospitalization due to a suicide attempt, detention, and

AWOL. As Child C was not always stable, visits were not pursued. The PM recognized the agency should have thoroughly documented Child C's inability or unwillingness to have sibling visits. The PM gave the example of August 2021 specifically, a visit did not occur as Child A was in crisis and Child C had just returned from AWOL and did not want to see his siblings. While the agency felt there were sufficient reasons not to have a sibling visit that month, the agency also acknowledged they should have had more thorough documentation in MiSACWIS. The PM stated Child C had not been refusing visits, but he generally preferred to "do his own thing" such as spend time with his girlfriend, rather than attend sibling visits. The agency was reminded to review FOM 722-06I to ensure they are following the requirements for documentation when visitation does not occur.

The FCW reported when she was assigned to the case in August 2021, she recognized some things were missed. Since that time, she has worked to get things on track and feels a lot of progress has been made. It was noted during the last court hearing, the judge was happy with the progress in the case.

The FCW and PM were informed that DCWL reviewed the youth's placement history. It was found that Child C had multiple placements due to jail/detention, AWOL, and hospitalization, which made visits difficult. However, during Youth C's placement in residential from 3/31/21 to 6/1/21, and placement in Independent Living from 7/29/21 to 10/23/21 sibling visit attempts should have occurred and been documented. The PM acknowledged this missed opportunity and stated they have new plans in place and do not anticipate further difficulties in meeting the requirements for sibling visits.

Documents reviewed

Reporting source documentation indicated the following:

- During a court hearing on 9/29/21, the judge expressed concern about the lack of sibling visits completed between Child A, Child B, and Child C. The court ordered sibling contact to be arranged by the agency and occur at least once per month.
- The FCW was interviewed and reported a formal visitation schedule had not been arranged. The FCW reported some barriers to in person visits, such as transportation barriers and Youth C being in crisis at times, or not wishing to visit. Stating that phone and video calls were also used to keep the siblings connected.
- The Program Manager was interviewed and reported phone communication occurred at times. However, Child C was in crisis for much of the past year, which affected visits.
- Sibling visits were not entered into MiSACWIS from 12/21/2020 to 9/29/2021.

A MiSACWIS case review determined the following:

- Sibling visits are required to occur monthly, per court order and policy.
- Child A and B were placed together from 5/16/19-8/18/21. On 8/18/21, Youth A moved to a relative caregiver.

- Sibling visits were documented for Youth A and B on 9/24/21 and 10/29/21. No sibling visits were documented for Youth C.
- Youth C's placements were as follows: Detention 11/17/20-2/10/21, Licensed FH 2/10/21-2/15/21, Hospital 2/15-2/19/21, Hospital 2/19/21-3/5/21, Jail 3/5-3/23/21, Detention 3/23/21-3/31/21, Residential 3/31/21-6/1/21, AWOL 6/1/21-7/29/21, Independent Living 7/29/21-10/23/21, AWOL 10/23/21-10/24/21, Independent Living 10/24/21- present.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.12421	Visitation and parenting time
	An agency shall have a policy regarding visitation and parenting time that contains, at a minimum, all of the following: (d) Provisions for visits between siblings who are not placed together except when there is a court determination that visits are detrimental to either child.
ANALYSIS:	A violation was determined due to missing sibling visits and a lack of documentation regarding attempts to complete visits. <u>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:</u> The agency was reminded to review FOM 722-06I to ensure they are following the requirements for documentation when visitation does not occur.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable CAP, I recommend no change in the license status.



December 14, 2021

Heather Reilly
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



December 14, 2021

Jessica VandenHeuvel
Area Manager

Date