



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE LICENSING
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

September 4, 2020

Aprille Sutton
Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan
3785 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

RE: License #: CB280201037
Investigation #: 2020C0114028
Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan

Dear Ms. Sutton,

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.

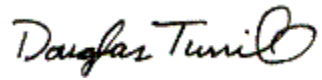
If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days. Failure to submit an acceptable corrective action plan will result in disciplinary action.

FOR CWL ONLY

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 Courtney Atkins, Area Manager, at 517-599-3667.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas Turrill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Doug Turrill, Licensing Consultant
MDHHS\Division of Child Welfare Licensing
Suite 11
701 S. Elmwood
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 383-5531

enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CB280201037
Investigation #:	2020C0114028
Complaint Receipt Date:	06/02/2020
Investigation Initiation Date:	06/03/2020
Report Due Date:	08/01/2020
Licensee Name:	Child & Family Services of NW Michigan Inc
Licensee Address:	3785 Veterans Drive Traverse City, MI 49684
Licensee Telephone #:	(231) 946-8975
Administrator:	Aprille Sutton, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Gina Aranki, Designee
Name of Facility:	Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan
Facility Address:	3785 Veterans Drive Traverse City, MI 49684
Facility Telephone #:	(231) 946-8975
Original Issuance Date:	09/01/1990
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	04/29/2019
Expiration Date:	04/28/2021
Capacity:	Unknown
Program Type:	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
It is alleged that the agency failed to report to Central Intake suspected physical abuse of a foster child by the bio-father and stepmother.	Yes
Additional Findings	No

III. METHODOLOGY

06/02/2020	Special Investigation Intake 2020C0114028
06/03/2020	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone
06/04/2020	Contact - Telephone call made PC w/ DHHS Supervisor
06/09/2020	Contact - Telephone call made PC to CPS Worker
06/14/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Interview CPS Worker
06/17/2020	Contact - Document Received
08/12/2020	Contact - Face to Face Interview Chief Administrator
08/12/2020	Contact - Telephone call made
08/12/2020	Contact - Document Received Document from CA

08/13/2020	Contact - Face to Face Interview Foster Care Worker
08/14/2020	Contact - Face to Face Interview FC Supervisor
08/24/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Interview Bio Parent/Step Parent
08/25/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Interview Relative
08/25/2020	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance
08/25/2020	Exit Conference

ALLEGATION:

It is alleged that the agency failed to report to Central Intake suspected physical abuse of a foster child by the bio-father and stepmother.

INVESTIGATION:

On June 3, 2020, a special investigation was initiated in response to the allegation described above. The complainant, agency staff, relatives and another DHHS Worker were interviewed. Documents were also reviewed. What follows is information obtained from the aforementioned sources.

On June 4, 2020, the complainant was interviewed. Staff 1 offered the following information. The biological father and stepmother of Foster Child A had informed Staff 1, that they had been taping socks over the hands and arms of Foster Child A to prevent her from masturbating and inserting objects into her vagina. This information was provided to Staff 1 on February 28, 2020, during a visit to the bio-father and stepmothers home. Staff 1 also stated that during a May 12, 2020 family team meeting, (FTM), the stepmother again reported that Foster Child A's hand and arms were taped during the nighttime hours to prevent her from doing self-harm. Staff 1 reported that the agency had failed to make a complaint to central intake

upon knowledge of the socks and taping on February 28, 2020 and May 12, 2020. Staff 1 referred me to the DHHS Worker involved in the case.

On June 14, 2020, the DHHS Worker was interviewed. She offered the following information. She reported that Staff 1 had informed her on May 14, 2020, that during the FTM on May 12, 2020, that the bio-father and stepmother had reported that they taped socks over the hands and arms of Foster Child A at night time to prevent her from inserting objects into her vagina. The DHHS Worker reported that it subsequently was discovered that the taping also involved taping the legs of Foster Child A. The DHHS Worker reported that the bio-father and stepmother had informed her that they told Staff 1 about the taping during the February 28, 2020 visit and that Staff 1 did not tell them to not use tape and socks to prevent Foster Child A from self-harm. The DHHS Worker reported that the agency had failed to file a complaint with central intake upon knowledge of the taping on February 28, 2020 and May 12, 2020.

On August 12, 2020, the Chief Administrator was interviewed. The Chief Administrator provided me with the phone number of Staff 1 and stated she remembered the case and would provide me with a timeline of events.

On August 13, 2020 Staff 1 was interviewed. Staff 1 reported that the agency had filed two complaints regarding concerns about the mental status of the bio-father and concerns that Foster Child A was not receiving consistent mental health treatment. Staff 1 reported that bio-father has a history of mental health problems and there was concern that he was not following his treatment plan. Staff 1 reported that on May 11, 2020, the agency filed a complaint with CPS which was rejected. On May 12 the agency filed a second complaint upon conferring with DHHS. Staff 1 reported that the complaints did not involve the taping of Foster Child A. Staff 1 reported that during the May 12, 2020 FTM that the stepmother reported taping socks over the hands and arms of Foster Child A. Staff 1 reported that she did not think much about this as it was a measure to prevent Foster Child A from self-harming. Staff 1 was asked if she had knowledge of the taping during the February 28, 2020 visit to the home. She denied that she had any knowledge of the taping at that time and only obtained knowledge of that during the May 12, 2020 FTM.

On August 14, 2020, the agency Program Supervisor was interviewed. She reported that during the FTM on May 12, 2020, the agency learned of the taping of the socks to Foster Child A but stated "There was so much going on socks and tape did not raise concerns". The Program Supervisor acknowledged that the taping was not explored with the bio-father or stepmother. The Program Supervisor stated that she had no knowledge of the taping prior to the May 12, 2020, FTM. The Program Supervisor acknowledged that a complaint to central intake was not initiated and completed.

On August 24, 2020, the bio-father and stepmother were interviewed. The Stepmother reported that during the February 28, 2020 in home visit from Staff 1

that she had told Staff 1 that they were using the socks and tape to prevent Foster Child A from engaging in self-harm. The stepmother reported that Staff 1 had said okay in response and did not tell them to cease using the socks and tape as a method to prevent self-harm. The stepmother provided me with the phone number of a Relative, who was also present at the February 28, 2020 in home meeting and recalls her telling Staff 1 about the taping.

On August 25, 2020, the Relative was interviewed. She reported that during the February 28, 2020 in home visit that Staff 1 had been informed of the socks and taping and did not offer a response. The Relative reported that at no time did Staff 1 say to not use the socks and tape.

Document Review:

A timeline of events provided by the Chief Administrator was reviewed.

The file of Foster Child A was reviewed.

The file of Staff 1 and the Program Supervisor were reviewed.

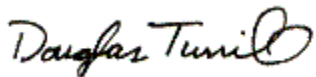
Email correspondence from the Complainant and DHHS Worker was reviewed.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.12214	Compliance with 1975 PA 238.
	An agency shall develop a written plan and implement the plan to assure compliance with 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.621, and known as the child protection law.

ANALYSIS:	<p>The bio-father, stepmother and Relative all reported that Staff 1 was informed by the stepmother during the February 28, 2020 visit of the taping of socks to Foster Child A's arms. The Program Supervisor acknowledged that she was made aware of the taping during the May 12, 2020 FTM. Though Staff 1 denied having knowledge of the taping during the February 28, 2020 visit she did acknowledge that she knew of the taping during the May 12, 2020 FTM as disclosed by the stepmother.</p> <p>The agency failed to report suspected child abuse on February 28, 2020 and again on May 12, 2020.</p> <p>REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED. SIR 2019C0114016 Dated April 15, 2019 Corrective Action Plan dated May 2, 2019.</p>
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan the recommendation is for continuance of the regular license.



August 25, 2020

Doug Turrill
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



September 4, 2020

Courtney Atkins
Area Manager

Date