



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

March 2, 2020

Chelsea Hill  
Bethany Christian Services Inc  
901 Eastern Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

RE: License #: CB280235713  
Investigation #: 2020C0634006  
Bethany Christian Services-Traverse City

Dear Ms. Hill:

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.

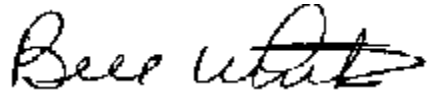
If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days. Failure to submit an acceptable corrective action plan will result in disciplinary action.

**FOR CWL ONLY**

Please note that violations of any licensing rules are also violations of the MSA 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 Claudia Triestram, Area Manager, at 616.552.3662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill White", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill White, Licensing Consultant  
MDHHS\Division of Child Welfare Licensing  
Suite 11  
701 S. Elmwood  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 342-5037

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	CB280235713
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2020C0634006
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	01/08/2020
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	01/16/2020
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	03/08/2020
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Bethany Christian Services Inc
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	901 Eastern Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(616) 224-7610
<b>Administrator:</b>	George Tyndall, Designee
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	George Tyndall, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Bethany Christian Services-Traverse City
<b>Facility Address:</b>	1055 Carriage Hill Drive Traverse City, MI 49686
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(231) 995-0870
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	04/11/2002
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	10/11/2018
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	10/10/2020
<b>Capacity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD PLACING AGENCY, PRIVATE

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

		Violation Established?
The agency allowed an applicant to voluntarily withdraw their application when there was evidence of rule noncompliance.		Yes

## III. METHODOLOGY

01/08/2020	Special Investigation Intake 2020C0634006
01/16/2020	Inspection Completed On-site
01/16/2020	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site
01/16/2020	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance
01/16/2020	Exit Conference

**ALLEGATION:** The agency allowed an applicant to voluntarily withdraw their application when there was evidence of rule noncompliance.

**INVESTIGATION:** An investigation into the allegation was conducted on 1/16/2020 at Bethany Christian Services. The licensing supervisor stated that the original 3130 was sent to DCWL recommending licensure of the foster home applicants. Shortly after the 3130 was sent to DCWL, the licensing worker terminated her employment with Bethany Christian Services and the current licensing supervisor took over.

The current licensing supervisor stated a request for further information on the 3130 was received from DCWL and he contacted the applicants. He stated while speaking with the potential foster mother she mentioned a police investigation that had been done, and said it was no big deal. The supervisor used a FOIA request to gain access to the report which indicated an inappropriate relationship between the potential foster father and a teenager. He was not charged.

The current licensing supervisor stated that the potential foster mother also stated that she and her husband went to therapy due to marital problems. This had not been disclosed to the previous licensing worker and was not in the 3130.

The licensing supervisor stated after learning of these situations, he gave them three options; transfer to another agency, withdraw their application or denial of the application. The applicants chose to withdraw their application.

This information was corroborated by the foster care supervisor and agency director.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12309</b>	<b>Records check.</b>
	(1) An agency shall, upon receipt of an application, request the department of state police to conduct both a criminal history check and a criminal records check through the federal bureau of investigation for applicants. The agency shall also request the department to conduct a criminal history check on all persons residing in the home over 18 years of age. Additional checks shall pertain to previous licenses, and substantiated child abuse and neglect records for all applicants and persons residing in the home 18 years of age or over in Michigan and in all states where the applicant has resided in the 5 years preceding the application.
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	The licensing worker that wrote the original 3130 conducted a criminal history check on the applicants. The current licensing worker, upon receiving information of further involvement with law enforcement, submitted a FOIA request to the local county sheriff's department and received additional information involving the potential foster father applicant.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

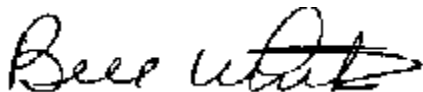
<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12310</b>	<b>Initial evaluation.</b>
	(3) The report shall be an assessment of all of the following: (i) Marital and family status and history, including current and past level of family functioning and relationships and any incidents of domestic violence. (c) Previous criminal convictions, and substantiated child abuse or neglect investigations or concerns brought to the agency's or department's attention for any member of the household.

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Upon receiving a request from DCWL for an addendum to the original 3130, related to previous law enforcement involvement; and after learning of martial problems that had not been disclosed to the previous licensing worker, the licensing worker failed to complete an addendum updating the original 3130 with the new information and make an appropriate recommendation.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.12325</b>	<b>License recommendation.</b>
	(1) An agency shall recommend to the department the appropriate licensing action consistent with facts contained in the foster home evaluation and any special evaluations.
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	Upon receiving a request from DCWL for an addendum to the original 3130, related to previous law enforcement involvement; and after learning of martial problems that had not been disclosed to the previous licensing worker, the licensing worker failed to complete an addendum updating the original 3130 with the new information and requesting a denial of licensure. Rather the applicants were allowed to withdraw their application.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend no change to this Child Placing Agency license – Private.



February 3, 2020

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Bill White  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



March 1, 2020

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Claudia Triestram  
Area Manager

Date