



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
LANSING

DR BEVERLY WALKER
GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

7/23/2024

Starfish Family Services Inc
30000 Hiveley,
Inkster, MI, 48141

License Number: DC820332561
Special Investigation Number: SI-00121854

Dear Starfish Family Services Inc,

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8158(2)(d)	The center is evacuated for any reason.
R 400.8158(4)	A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall submit a written report to the department of the occurrences outlined in subrules (1), (2), and (3) of this rule, in a format provided by the department, within 72 hours of the verbal report to the department.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations:

- I interviewed: PD/ LD, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, CCSM 3, CCSM 4 and CCSM 5.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 4/23/2024.

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8158(2)(d)	The center is evacuated for any reason.
R 400.8158(4)	A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall submit a written report to the department of the occurrences outlined in subrules (1), (2), and (3) of this rule, in a format provided by the department, within 72 hours of the verbal report to the department.

Due to the violations, you must send us a [corrective action plan](#) by 8/13/2024. You can use our corrective action plan form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact licensing consultant Selika Johnson at 313-938-5922 or johnsons5@michigan.gov. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan 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.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This report and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#).

Please review this report for accuracy and contact your consultant, Selika Johnson at 313-938-5922 or johnsons5@michigan.gov. In the event that Selika Johnson is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Selika Johnson, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 7/23/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00121854	04/19/2024
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
4/23/2024	06/18/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DC820332561	Starfish Family Services Inc
Facility Name	Licensee Designee(s)
S.F.S./Thorne Elementary/GSRP	
Program Type	Central Administrator(s)
Center	
Capacity	Program Director(s) Name
86	
Facility Address	Mailing Address
25251 Annapolis, Dearborn Heights, MI, 48125	30000 Hiveley, Inkster, MI, 48141
Facility Phone Number	Facility Email Address
3137793846	rbutler@sfish.org
Original License Issuance Date	License Status:
10/12/2012	Regular
License Effective Date:	License Expiration Date:
4/13/2023	4/12/2025

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
The facility is unsafe, on 4/17/2024, two child care staff member (CCSM)s became nauseated and felt light-headed. The children and staff members were rushed out of the building and into another building.	Yes	

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
4/23/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00121854
4/19/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call Spoke to PD/ LD regarding the allegations.
4/23/2024	Inspection Completed On-Site

	Onsite- 9:15 to 11:00 a.m.. Spoke to PD/LD, Mary Gallagher (Family Service Worker), CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Shamika Daniels (Center Support)
4/24/2024	Contact – Document Received Offsite evacuation plan received.
5/23/2024	Exit Conference with R. Bulter

ALLEGATION: The facility is unsafe, on 4/17/2024, two child care staff member (CCSM)s became nauseated and felt light-headed. The children and staff members were rushed out of the building and into another building.

INVESTIGATION:

On 4/19/2024 an anonymous complaint was received. According to the complaint, on 4/17/2024, two CCSMs in the same classroom became nauseated and felt light-headed. The children and CCSMs were rushed out of the building and into another building, as directed to do so by CCSM 3. The CCSMs and students later returned to the building, and the CCSMs got sick again. Again, the students and staff were rushed back out of the building. The fire department responded. The CCSMs were adamant about concerns they had been exposed to mold. Parents were called to pick the children up from school. CCSM 3 had given the parents a verbal notice that the fire department indicated the building was ok. There was no formal documentation provided to the parents indicating what safety measures were taken to ensure the safety of the building for the students. There are concerns that the building was not properly inspected. The students have returned to school.

On 4/19/2024, I called Program Director (PD) regarding the allegations. She stated that she was at the National Head Start Convention and not at the center on 4/17/2024. She was called and inform that the center had to be evacuated. Lance Thornsberry (Director of Facilities and Security Management) check the building for carbon monoxide and the building was checked by the fire department. The building was found to be safe, and the children and staff returned to the building.

On 4/23/2024, I completed an unannounced inspection at Thorn Elementary. I spoke to PD, CCSM 1 and CCSM 2, CCSM 3, and CCSM 4. Four rooms were operating and there were no concerns with the center. In room 1, there were eight children, ages 3 to 5 years, with two CCSMs. In room 2, there were 14 children, ages 3 to 5 years, with two CCSMs. In room 5, there were 11 children, ages 4 to 5 years, with two CCSMs. In room 6, there were 11 children, ages 4 to 5 years with two CCSMs. Attendance records from 4/17/2024, written report from Mr. Thornsberry and Starfish Incident report were provided for review.

According to PD, on 4/17/2024, in room 5, two CCSMs was sick, CCSM 1 and CCSM 2. None of the children was sick or became ill. Mr. Thornsberry was contacted, and he cleared the building. The fire department was contacted to double check the building. The children and CCSMs returned inside the building. CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 went

home sick. They had no child care staff members for room 5 so the parents of those children were called to pick the children up early. I asked if licensing was contacted to report that the building was evacuated, and PD stated no that she did not know she was supposed to. The rules about reporting incidents and providing a written report was provided to PD for future reference.

According to CCSM 3, she is the Family Service Worker at the center. On 4/17/2024, CCSM 4 told her to contact the parents of the children in room 5 because the CCSMs were sick. CCSM 3 went into room 5 and the children were fine, and they were playing. The CCSMs looked like they had a stomachache. CCSM 3 did not smell anything in the room. They had everyone exit the portable and they stood outside. Mr. Thornsberry was contacted, and he was heading to the facility. CCSM 3's supervisor, Kathleen Keathley and nurse, Toya Parker, from Starfish came to the facility. CCSM 4 asked if they could go into Thorne Elementary as it started to rain. The school provided two classrooms that were empty. The children and the CCSMs took the children into the school. Mr. Thornsberry checked the portable building and said it was safe. The children and CCSMs were at the school about 10 minutes. The nurse visually checked the children on their way back into the center. There was no concern with the children. About five minutes later, they exited the building again and went back to the school. The concern at the portable prompted the school's emergency services. The superintendent wanted the building checked by the fire department. The fire department arrived when they were walking back over to the school. The fire department checked each room with a tool. She believed they were checking for carbon monoxide. They were not at the school for long and once they finished, they returned to the portable. The superintendent was at the center (portable) and told them it was safe to return, it was cleared by the fire department. They continued to call parents. Some of the children had been picked up. All the children from room 5 were picked up by 12:30 p.m. The CCSMs from room 5 stayed until all the children were picked up. The other three rooms continued to operate for the rest of the day.

According to CCSM 1, she is a child care staff member in room 5. On 4/17/2024 she arrived at the center at about 7:50 a.m. She didn't feel well, so she opened the classroom window. CCSM 2 came into the room. She was cold so she closed the window. CCSM 1 texted CCSM 4 and told her that she wasn't feeling well, but she was going to try to stay the entire day. CCSM 2 stated that she smelled something once she arrived to the center and she wasn't feeling well also. CCSM 1 stated that someone came to check the carbon monoxide detector in all the rooms. CCSM 1 stated that she does not believe the carbon monoxide detector was working in her room. CCSM 4 came to room 5 and stated that they had to exit the building. They went to the elementary school sat for a minute then returned to the portable. Then they were told that the fire department had to check the portable. They had not been at the center long and then they went back to the school. Before they could sit down at the school they were told to return to the center. CCSM 1 stated that she left after they returned to the center. She stated she went home, threw up and lay down. She did not return the following day. She came back on Friday and she and CCSM 2 cleaned and sanitized room 5. None of the children was sick.

According to CCSM 2, when she arrived at the center on 4/17/2024 “there was a smell that did not agree with her”. She said she told CCSM 4 and then went into the bathroom to “get herself together”. She went into the room 5 and the window was open. This smell was not as strong in room 5. Ms. Daniel told her CCSM 1 was also not feeling well. PD told CCSM 4 to get everyone out of the building. CCSM 2 said Starfish staff from the Hively location came over to check the center. The children and CCSMs went back into the school then; the fire department checked the center. CCSM 2 stated that she has never smelled anything at the center before. All the children from room 5 was sent home. CCSM 2 stated that none of the parents seem to be concerned at pickup. CCSM 1 left before her and she left at about 1:00 p.m. that day. CCSM 2 stated that she when she went home, she did not get sick. She stayed home to make sure she did not have any symptoms or concerns. CCSM 2 returned to the center on Friday. The children did not return on Thursday because CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 was not at the center. The children returned the following Monday.

According to CCSM 4, she is the center of support, and she works wherever she is needed. On 4/17/2024, she did not smell anything at the center. CCSM 2 had a queasy stomach, and she threw up when she first arrived at the center. About 10:00 a.m. she received a text from CCSM 1 stating she wasn't feeling well. She went into the room and asked if she could open the window. She checked the carbon monoxide detectors in each room, and they were working. She texted PD and told her what was going on. PD contacted Mr. Thornsberry and then told her that he was coming to the center. They evacuated the building and went to Thorn Elementary. Mr. Thornsberry cleared the center. Dr. Jones stated that Mr. Thornsberry couldn't clear the building and that the fire department needed to clear it. There were no readings on the fire department monitors when they checked the center. They contacted the parents and had the children picked up. Room 5 was closed Wednesday and Thursday.

On 4/24/2024, the offsite evacuation plan was received and reviewed. The center’s offsite evacuation plan procedure is all building occupants shall proceed to the designated outside meeting place. In coordination with Emergency First Responders, SFS Operations Director and SFS Director or Facilities; the Center Manager or designee shall assist with making a determination of whether to proceed from the outside meeting place to the designated off-site emergency location. Factors in this determination include but are not limited to cause of evacuation weather, building status, and overall safety. The meeting place is the rear of building by far end of playground. The off-site emergency location is Thorne Elementary School. The center followed their offsite evacuation plan.

The attendance record, written report from Mr. Thornsberry and the internal Starfish incident report was also reviewed. According to the attendance record from 4/17/2024, there was 46 children present that was evacuated from the center. The report from Mr. Thornsberry states,

On 4/17/2024 at approximately 11:00 a.m., I was contacted regarding a circumstance at Thorn in which two teachers in classroom five had suddenly become nausea. Although there were no noted smell, and the CO detectors were

all working and silent there was a concern something in the environment could be the cause. Out of an abundance of cautious I immediately advised all occupants to evacuate the building. I immediately proceeded to Thorn ECE Center was the Family Engagement Manager, Kathleen Keatley and Health Specialist, RN Toya Parker. Upon arrival, we quickly verified that all natural gases, which is used solely for forced air space conditioning/heating, is only run outside of the facility. There was no smell noted. The CO'2 Detectors all had batteries and were working. While completing these checks the Dearborn Heights Fire Department arrived. It was quickly understood that the Thorn Elementary School Superintendent had contacted them also out of caution. The fire department entered and used a gas monitor to show Zero CO'2 or Natural Gas and no cause for concern in the building. The Fire Department gave an all clear to re-enter the facility.

According to the internal Starfish incident report: "The family service worker was instructed to notify the parents in room 5 that we needed to have an early dismissal for their children. It was relayed to the family service worker by the person who is second in command. The center leader was at a conference out of state. Two teachers and a parent in the classroom were starting to feel lightheaded and nauseous. Possible stomach issues. None of the children were experiencing or displaying any signs of illness. The family service worker sent out a text notification to all parents in room 5 that they needed to be picked up. All the children in the center (all rooms) were brought outside to the playground. When it started to sprinkle/ rain a plan was made to bring the children in the elementary building. We were given 2 rooms to put the children in until the building could be cleared of problems. Lance was called and he came over with Kathleen Keeley and Toya Parker to assess the building the children, the children and staff and support pick up. Lance did not find anything in the building. The children were brought back to the center. The Superintendent of Westwood school district was called, and he stated we needed to vacate the site and he notified Dearborn Heights Fire Department. They responded and cleared the building of any problems. The children were return to the classrooms. Room 5 children were picked up by the parents within an hour of being called and teachers were sent home. The other three classrooms returned to their normal schedule."


RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8158(2)(d)	The center is evacuated for any reason.
ANALYSIS:	According to the interviews with the CCSM's, the center failed to report to the department within 24 hours of the center being evacuated on 4/17/2024.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Established

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.8158(4)	A licensee, licensee designee, or program director shall submit a written report to the department of the occurrences outlined in subrules (1), (2), and (3) of this rule, in a format provided by the department, within 72 hours of the verbal report to the department.
ANALYSIS:	According to the interviews with the CCSMs, the center failed to submit a written report to the department within 72 hours of the center being evacuated on 4/17/2024.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Established

BUREAU RECOMMENDATION

Bureau Recommendation
Upon receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend the no change in the status of the license.

Approved By:	
Selika Johnson Consultant	07/23/2024 Date
	 LaTanya Ellington Area Manager
	07/23/2024 Date