



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

Michelle Richard
ACTING DIRECTOR

3/13/2024

Valarie Solomon
21184 Sherman Ave.,
Southfield, MI, 48034

License Number: DG630262741
Special Investigation Number: 2023D0211272

Dear Valarie Solomon,

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing bureau 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 400.1916(13)(b)	Infant seats.
R 400.1903(8)(a)	Ensure that smoking and vaping do not occur in child-use space, on the premises of a child care home while children are in care, and in a vehicle when used to transport children who are in care."
R 400.1911(3)	A licensee and child care staff members shall be up and awake at all times when children are in care, except as provided in R 400.1922(2) of these rules.

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

- I interviewed: the complainant, licensee, child care staff member, and parent.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 12/04/2023

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

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.1916(6)	Infants, birth to 12 months of age, shall rest or sleep alone in an approved crib, play yard, or porta-crib. This equipment must meet all of the following requirements:

Due to the violations, you must send us a [corrective action plan](#) by 4/02/2024. 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 Chimere Simmons at (248) 881-6044 or simmonscl3@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.

Due to the infant safe sleep violation, all of your child care staff members must take training on infant safe sleep. This must be included in your corrective action plan and completed by 4/02/2024. In addition, a follow up inspection may be made to check compliance with the infant safe sleep rules.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	☐	☒
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	☐	☒

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, Chimere Simmons at (248) 881-6044 or simmonsc13@michigan.gov. In the event that Chimere Simmons 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 "Chimere Simmons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chimere Simmons, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

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

Report Type: Special Investigation Report

Date of Report: 3/13/2024

Special Investigation Number	Complaint/Incident Receipt Date
SI-00080178	11/28/2023
Investigation Initiation Date	Report Due Date
12/3/2023	2/2/2024
License Number	Licensee Name(s)
DG630262741	Valarie Solomon
Capacity	Facility Name
12	Valarie Solomon
Program Type	Mailing Address
Group Home	21184 Sherman Ave., Southfield, MI, 48034
Facility Address	Facility Email Address
21184 Sherman, Southfield, MI, 48034	valariesolomon@att.net
Facility Phone Number	License Status:
3138209916	Regular
Original License Issuance Date	License Expiration Date:
1/15/2004	7/18/2024
License Effective Date:	
7/19/2022	

ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?	
On at least two occasions, the complainant stated there was a strong marijuana odor in the child care home during child care hours.		No
Child A (7-month, male) sleeps in a bouncer facing the wall.		No
Child care staff members are sleeping while children are awake during child care hours.		No
Additional Finding: An infant was asleep in a pack n' play with a sippy cup.	Yes	

METHODOLOGY

Date	Activity
12/3/2023	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00080178
11/29/2023	Contact – Phone Call Received Spoke to Child A's Mother
11/29/2023	Special Investigation Initiated via Phone Call Spoke with Complainant
11/29/2023	Contact – Phone Call Made Left voicemail for Child A's Mother
11/30/2023	Contact– Phone Call Received Spoke with Child A's Mother
12/4/2023	Inspection Completed On-Site Onsite from 12:51 pm to 2:10 pm Interviewed the licensee, Valerie Solomon and child care staff member
12/4/2023	Exit Conference with Ms. Solomon
2/14/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Spoke with licensee

ALLEGATION: On at least two occasions, the complainant stated there was a strong marijuana odor in the child care home during child care hours.

INVESTIGATION: On 11/29/2023, I spoke with the complainant. The complainant shared that on two separate occasions, the child care home held a strong odor of marijuana. The complainant stated the odor was present outside the home and stronger inside the home. The complainant shared the odor was present on 11/11/2023 but could not recall the second date the odor was present.

On 12/04/2023, I made an unannounced onsite inspection to the child care group home. Upon arrival to the home, I did not smell marijuana outside of the home nor inside the home. I interviewed licensee, Valerie Solomon, who denied the allegation of marijuana use or smoke odor in the home. Ms. Solomon stated that there is no smoking in or outside of her home, and also that no one in the home smokes at all. Ms. Solomon shared that she has been working in the field for 35 years and this is her first investigation. During the onsite inspection, I observed Ms. Solomon's posted no smoking, no vaping posting and reviewed child in care statements where it is indicated (checked) that smoking or vaping does not occur in the home or on the premises.

On 12/04/2023, I interviewed Ms. Solomon's child care staff member (CCSM). The CCSM stated there is no smoking in the home and no one in the home smokes.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.1903(8)(a)	Ensure that smoking and vaping do not occur in child-use space, on the premises of a child care home while children are in care, and in a vehicle when used to transport children who are in care."
ANALYSIS:	On 12/04/2023, I did not observe any evidence that smoking occurs in the child care group home.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

ALLEGATION: Child A (7-month, male) sleeps in a bouncer facing the wall.

INVESTIGATION: On 11/29/2023, I spoke with Child A's Mother. Child A's Mother shared that she, on two different occasions, found Child A asleep in a bouncer facing a wall when she arrived to pick him up. Child A's Mother shared the first incident occurred on 11/10/2023, or 11/11/2023, she could not recall the exact date. Child A's Mother shared when she arrived and found Child A asleep in the bouncer facing the wall, she asked Ms. Solomon if she could bring a Pack n' Play for Child A to sleep. Child A's Mother stated that Ms. Solomon said she did not mind if she brought a Pack n' Play for Child A, so Child A's Mother brought a Pack n' Play for Child A. Child A's Mother also shared this initial incident was Child A's first day at the child care home.

Child A's Mother stated the second incident occurred on 11/28/2023. On 11/28/2023, Child A's Mother dropped Child A off around 11:00 AM and picked him up around 1:00 PM. Child A's Mother stated that she was shocked to find Child A asleep in the same bouncer facing the wall again, even after she had brought a Pack n' Play to sleep in. Child A's Mother shared she did not ask Ms. Solomon or the CCSM why Child A was asleep in a corner by himself in the bouncer. Child A's Mother shared that she picked Child A up, thanked Ms. Solomon and then left. Child A has not returned to the child care home.

On 12/04/2023, during the onsite inspection, Ms. Solomon denied children sleeping in bouncers or other unapproved sleeping surfaces. Ms. Solomon stated that children do not sleep in bouncers, car seats, or swings. Ms. Solomon has cribs and Pack n' Plays for children under one year to sleep in, and cots are available for older children. Ms. Solomon stated if children (infants) fall asleep in a swing or bouncer, they are picked up and placed in a crib or Pack n' Play. Ms. Solomon shared that there was a newly enrolled infant, who has attended the child care home a few times, and as of 11/30/2023, the child is no longer enrolled. Ms. Solomon shared when Child A first attended the child care home, he cried a lot, and as a result she or the CCSM would hold Child A. Ms. Solomon recalled a time when Child A's Mother arrived to drop off Child A; Ms. Solomon picked up Child A and was holding him. Child A's Mother asked where she was going to put Child A when he fell asleep. Ms. Solomon informed Child

A's Mother that she was trying to calm Child A down first because he was crying so much. Child A was still new and had only been to the child care home a few times. When Child A's Mother asked again, Ms. Solomon stated she put Child A down in a bouncer, that was adjacent to the couch. When Child A's Mother returned to pick Child A up, Child A was in the bouncer, but not asleep. Child A's Mother asked if she could bring a crib for Child A. Ms. Solomon told her that she could. Ms. Solomon said Child A's Mother brought a Pack n' Play for Child A to nap. Ms. Solomon shared the last day Child A attended was 11/29/2023. Ms. Solomon stated Child A's Mother called on 12/01/2023 and said Child A would not be returning. Ms. Solomon shared that Child A's Mother came earlier on 12/04/2023 to get his Pack n' Play and to pick up Child A's things. Child A's Mother thanked Ms. Solomon and told her she appreciated everything she has done for her, and Child A. Ms. Solomon replied, "you're more than welcome" and that was her last conversation with Child A's Mother.

On 12/04/2023, I interviewed Ms. Solomon's CCSM. The CCSM stated that the children are not allowed to sleep in bouncers, highchairs, or other unapproved surfaces. The CCSM stated that sometimes children will fall asleep in a bouncer or swing but once they are asleep, they are moved to their crib or Pack n' Play.

On 12/04/2023, during the onsite inspection, Ms. Solomon informed me that she had a Ring camera in the child care space. Ms. Solomon stated Child A was not present on 11/28/2023 but was present on 11/29/2023. Ms. Solomon and I reviewed the camera from 11/29/2023. The video shows Child A's Mother arriving with Child A, the CCSM is seated on the couch. Child A's Mother can be viewed handing Child A to the CCSM and leaving shortly after. There were four children present including Child A. As the video continues, Child A is seen either being held by the CCSM or Ms. Solomon or placed in the bouncer. A captured timestamp shows the CCSM placing Child A in a pack n' play at 4:48 PM. Child A is in the Pack n' Play for a short time as it appears he is awake when the CCSM picks him up. The CCSM is seen holding Child A in various positions (front facing and cradling) while either sitting down or standing up and walking around. Child A continued to either be held or placed in the bouncer or swing. When Child A's Mother arrives after 7:15 PM, Child A was in the bouncer. Child A's Mother can be seen speaking to the CCSM, picking Child A up and leaving.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.1916(13)(b)	Infant seats.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the video, I did not observe Child A asleep in a bouncer facing a wall.
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

ALLEGATION: Child care staff members are sleeping while children are awake during child care hours.

INVESTIGATION: On 11/29/2023, I spoke to the complainant. The complainant shared that the licensee's child care staff member was asleep on the sofa in the basement while the children were awake on 11/28/2023. The complainant shared the child care staff member was sleeping heavily and snoring. The complainant stated they did not attempt to wake the child care staff member by touching or shaking but did attempt to talk to the child care staff member. The complainant did not notify Ms. Solomon of what was observed. The complainant shared there were three children present, and one of the children said, "She won't wake up, can you play with us?". The children were playing and running around the basement. The complainant stayed in the home for approximately 20 minutes and the child care staff member continued to sleep. The child care staff member eventually woke up when one of the children, an infant, began crying. The complainant shared they did not say anything to the child care staff member about them sleeping or why they were asleep when the children were awake. The complainant shared that Ms. Solomon was not present when the child care staff member was observed sleeping.

On 12/04/2023, during the unannounced onsite inspection, I asked Ms. Solomon if she or her child care staff member has ever slept when children were present and awake during child care hours. Ms. Solomon denied she or her staff member ever sleep during child care hours. Ms. Solomon stated she nor her staff member ever sleep when children are present, and they are always awake with the children. Ms. Solomon stated they do not nap when the children nap and are awake and present during arrival and pickup as well as throughout the day. Ms. Solomon stated she has nine children enrolled of which all of the children except one is a relative. Ms. Solomon recalled on 11/28/2023, a (new) unrelated parent came to drop off their child. When the parent walked into the basement, the parent said the child care staff member was asleep. The child care staff member replied, "No, I'm not. Why do you keep saying that?". Ms. Solomon stated she was present when the parent arrived.

On 12/04/2023, I interviewed the child care staff member (CCSM). The CCSM denied ever sleeping when children are present and awake during child care hours or even napping during the day. The CCSM recalled the day Child A's Mother brought Child A to the child care home. The CCSM shared that when Child A's Mother was coming down the stairs to the child care space, Child B said, "Auntie CCSM sleep". Child A's Mother walked towards the sofa where the CCSM was seated and asked, "Are your tired? Yeah, I'm tired too". The CCSM said they continued to have a conversation that mostly consisted of small talk. The CCSM stated that Child A's Mother would sometimes "drift off" during their conversation. The CCSM shared when Child A's Mother returned to pick up Child A around 1:00 PM, the CCSM was seated on the couch facing a child that was

in a stationary activity center and Child A, who had just fallen asleep in a bouncer near the wall, next to the couch.

On 12/04/2023, during the onsite inspection, Ms. Solomon and I reviewed the camera footage of the child care space. Ms. Solomon's child care space is largely square shaped, and the camera shows the majority of the child care space, including the tables, couch, open area, stairs from the main level leading to the child care space, and a portion of the kitchenette. Ms. Solomon replayed the video from the date of 11/29/2023 from just before Child A's Mother arrived to drop Child A off up until Child A's Mother arrived to pick Child A up. In the video, the CCSM can be seen walking to the couch and sitting down, moments later, Child A's Mother arrives with Child A. Child A's Mother can be seen speaking with the CCSM, then Child A's Mother handed Child A to the CCSM. Ms. Solomon can be viewed coming in and out of the child care space at various times. When Child A's Mother arrived to pick Child A up, the CCSM and Ms. Solomon are awake and can be viewed speaking to Child A's Mother.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.1911(3)	(3) A licensee and child care staff members shall be up and awake at all times when children are in care, except as provided in R 400.1922(2) of these rules.
ANALYSIS:	Based on the video, Ms. Solomon and the child care staff member were awake when children were in care on 11/29/2023
CONCLUSION:	Violation Not Established

ADDITIONAL FINDING: An infant was asleep in a Pack n' Play with a sippy cup.

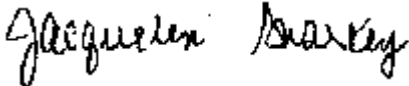
INVESTIGATION: On 12/04/2023, during the onsite investigation from 12:57 PM to 2:10 PM, I observed one child asleep in a Pack n' Play with a sippy cup. I informed Ms. Solomon that children cannot sleep with sippy cups or bottles, and she removed the sippy cup from the Pack n' Play.

RULE/STATUTORY VIOLATIONS:

APPLICABLE RULES	
R 400.1916(6)	Infants, birth to 12 months of age, shall rest or sleep alone in an approved crib, play yard, or porta-crib. This equipment must meet all of the following requirements:
ANALYSIS:	On 12/04/2023, I observed one child asleep with a sippy cup in his hand.
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:	
 Chimere Simmons 03/13/2024 Consultant Date	 Jacquelin Sharkey 03/13/2024 Area Manager Date