



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

September 5, 2023

Brandon Dreffs
YMCA of Greater Flint
411 E Third
Flint, MI 48503

RE: License #: CR250200891
Investigation #: 2023C0123002
YMCA Camp Copneconic

Dear Brandon Dreffs:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. No substantial violations were found.

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 Grand Rapids licensing unit at (616) 356-0100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kay Foreman".

Kay Foreman, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Unit 13, 7th Floor
350 Ottawa, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(248) 303-7433

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CR250200891
Investigation #:	2023C0123002
Complaint Receipt Date:	08/04/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	08/04/2023
Report Due Date:	10/03/2023
Licensee Name:	YMCA of Greater Flint
Licensee Address:	411 E Third Flint, MI 48503
Licensee Telephone #:	(810) 232-9622
Administrator:	Michelle Hilton
Name of Facility:	YMCA Camp Copneconic
Facility Address:	10407 N. Fenton Rd Fenton, MI 48430
Facility Telephone #:	(810) 629-9622
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	08/19/2023
Expiration Date:	08/18/2025
Capacity:	408
Program Type:	CHILD CAMP - RESIDENTIAL

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
The camp did not determine suitability of camp staff.	No
The camp did not follow their child protection plan.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

07/30/2023	Contact - Document Received Email from Branden Dreffs, Executive Director at Camp Copneconic
08/04/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023C0123002
08/04/2023	Special Investigation Initiated – Telephone call to Brandon Dreffs
08/07/2023	Contact - Document Sent-email to Sean Diamond concerning documents for investigation
08/10/2023	Inspection Completed On-site onsite inspection with interviews and reviewed records
08/11/2023	Contact - Telephone call made called and left message with volunteer Allyssa Fenslau
08/11/2023	Contact - Telephone call made left message with Relative A1.
08/14/2023	Contact - Telephone call received received call from A. Faenslau, Phone Interview
08/16/2023	Contact - Telephone call made left message with Eric Schultz/PCU Specialist MDHHS for collaboration.
08/17/2023	Contact – Telephone call Interview Relative A1
09/05/2023	Exit Conference with Brandon Dreffs

ALLEGATION:

The camp did not determine suitability of camp staff through preemployment screenings.

INVESTIGATION:

On 7/30/23, I received an email from program director Brandon Dreffs. The email had a completed *DHS-3200 Report of Actual or Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect* attached which he claimed was submitted to centralized intake. The attachment read in part that on 7/27/23, Relative A1 reported an incident where employee Dairo Prado choked Camper A on 7/26. It further reported that it was unprovoked and an unwitnessed event. No marks were seen on Camper A's neck. Interview of Camper A revealed it had occurred at the DIG It Pit (sandbox approximately 15' by 15') with the 12 other campers present. Counselor Nicole Kurtansky and volunteer Allyssa Fensiau were also present with the group.

On 8/10/23, I interviewed senior program director Sean Diamond at the camp. Mr. Diamond stated that Dairo Prado was an international Colombian employee. Mr. Diamond provided for my review an application packet with an interview summary completed by the International Exchange of North America (IENA), that listed previous employment experience with children, college education, sporting activities, general health review, and background information for Mr. Prado. Mr. Diamond stated that Mr. Prado had no previous misconduct or allegations filed against him during his time at camp. Mr. Diamond provided a printed criminal background check from the Federation of Columbia that stated, "The Colombian National Police informs that Prado Diaz Dairo Andres does not have any pending issues with the judicial authorities."

On 8/29/23, I requested and Mr. Dreffs provided the three positive references that were gathered for Mr. Prado prior to his employment commencing.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.11109	Staff.
	(7) A camp shall maintain a personnel record, collected before initial assignment, for each staff member, except medical professionals whose employing organization subcontracts with the camp to provide medical services and that already requires clearances and maintains a personnel file containing all required documentation and that may be reviewed at the employer's site. The record shall include all of the following information:

	<p>(a) Name.</p> <p>(b) Documentation of compliance where the position occupied has experience or education requirements specified by an administrative rule.</p> <p>(c) Prior work history, including camp experience.</p> <p>(d) Three statements of positive reference that are obtained before staff assignment and that are from persons unrelated to the staff member.</p> <p>(e) A record of any criminal convictions other than minor traffic violations, including at least 1 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Documentation from the Michigan State Police or the equivalent law enforcement agency from the state, Canadian province, or other country where the person usually resides. (ii) (ii) Documentation from an entity accessing either Michigan State Police records or equivalent law enforcement agency records in the state. Canadian province, or other country where the person usually resides. (iii) (iii) International staff clearances provided by recognized international programs such as International Camp Counselor Program, Camp America, Camp Counselors USA, Camp USA, Summer Camp USA, or approved equivalent shall be determined to meet the requirement of subdivisions (i) or (ii) or (f) of this subrule. (iv) (iv) If the employee has criminal convictions, the licensee or designee shall complete a written evaluation of the convictions that addresses the nature of the conviction, the length of time since the conviction, and the relationship of the conviction to the regulated activity to determine whether the prospective employee complies with subrule (6) of this rule. <p>(f) Documentation from the Michigan Department of Human Services, the equivalent state or Canadian provincial agency, or equivalent agency in the country where the person usually resides, that any staff person age 21 or</p>
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	over has not been determined to be a perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect.
ANALYSIS:	A review of Mr. Prado's employment file revealed the camp had complied with acquiring required preemployment screening materials. The three positive references include two references obtained from IENA and one reference obtained from Camp Copneconic.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION:

The camp did not follow their child protection plan.

INVESTIGATION:

The Camp Copneconic Child Protection Plan comprises a six-page plan entitled, *YMCA of Greater Flint Child Abuse Prevention Plan*. I determined that the parts of that plan that pertain to this investigation consisted of Part One, Two, and Five. Part One outlined camp responsibilities related to applications, interviews, criminal record checks, and reference checks. Part Two outlined training and education. Part Five outlined responding to an allegation of child mistreatment.

Mr. Dreffs stated that the child protection plan was fully implemented and followed. Mr. Dreffs stated the camp director reported the incident to child protective services and LARA BCHS camps section as soon as he was aware of the alleged incident. He then stated the camp director suspended Mr. Prado and separated him immediately from all campers. Mr. Dreffs stated the camp director then immediately investigated the incident by interviewing the parent, camper, counselors, and volunteers associated with the group.

Mr. Dreffs provided for my review the attendance and payroll chart. Mr. Prado was present for all seven days of staff training from 6/10/23 through 6/16/23. It was during this time that Mr. Prado was trained on the child protection plan.

On 8/10/23, I interviewed counselor Nicole Kurtansky at the camp. Ms. Kurtansky stated that she was partnered with Dairo Prado's group of campers. Ms. Kurtansky stated that the DIG It Pit is within an open area outside, visible from nearby activities and the pavilion. Ms. Kurtansky stated that she had filled out an incident report about activity at the DIG It Pit on 7/26/23. Ms. Kurtansky stated her report described that she took three campers from the group to the bathroom area to fill their water bottles. Ms. Kurtansky stated that she did not see anything inappropriate happen at the DIG It Pit that day and that no campers mentioned any incidences. Ms. Kurtansky stated that later she took a few campers to the bathroom for 5-10 minutes

during the DIG It Pit session leaving volunteer Allyssa Fenslau with Mr. Prado and remaining campers.

On 8/11/23, I interviewed volunteer Allyssa Fenslau by phone. Ms. Fenslau stated that she spent only one day with Mr. Prado and Ms. Kurtansky's group of campers. Ms. Fenslau stated that the group was at the DIG it Pit for about thirty minutes, and she was not familiar with the campers or Mr. Prado. Ms. Fenslau stated that Mr. Prado didn't talk with the campers very much, possibly due to some lack of English skills and that he sat at the outskirts of the DIG it Pit. Ms. Fenslau did not witness any negative interactions between him or the campers while at the DIG It Pit.

On 8/11/23, I interviewed counselor Dairo Prado at the camp. Mr. Prado confirmed that he was housed separately from the campers at the staff house since the time that he was aware of the allegations against him. Mr. Prado also confirmed he was present at all of the camp trainings. Mr. Prado stated that while at the DIG It Pit he sat outside of the sandbox watching the campers digging for buried objects. Mr. Prado stated that volunteer Fenslau was sitting on the stairs watching their group of campers near the DIG It Pit and counselor Kurtansky, took some campers to the bathroom but was with the group most of the time. Mr. Prado said he spent some of the time at the DIG It Pit sprinkling a bit of water on the campers, as it was a very hot day, and that the campers were having fun with that activity. When the activity was over Mr. Prado stated that he said, "Let's Go, Let's go", when it was time to move to the next activity. Mr. Prado said he may have put his flat hand on the back of a camper, encouraging them to go to the next activity, but there was nothing rough about it because he doesn't like to be rough. Afterward, the group moved to the playground and Mr. Prado stated that he pushed some female campers on the swings there. Following that activity, they sought shelter in the dining hall because of inclement weather. He stated the camp day ended thereafter.

On 8/17/23, I interviewed Relative A1 by telephone. Relative A1 stated that she found out about the incident the morning after it happened. Camper A told her that his camp counselor choked him. Relative A1 said that it took a couple of days to get all the details from Camper A. Camper A told Relative A1 that counselor Prado took his friend's water bottle and sprayed it on his friend's hands to help him clean them off. Camper A said he asked counselor Prado what he was doing and then described that counselor Prado put his hands around his neck, squeezed, and lifted him off of the ground. Relative A1 said Camper A's story never changed and that Camper A never makes up stories. In addition, Relative A stated Camper A told her that counselor Prado was mean and yelled at him to hurry up. Relative A1 stated there were no markings on Camper A's neck and she did not take him for medical attention. Relative A1 stated that after reporting the alleged incident to the camp the next morning, Camper A was hanging on her leg, crying to go home because he was afraid to stay at camp.

On 8/28/23, I received police report # 2385203016 from the Charter Township Grand Blanc Police Department. The report confirmed the reported dates and events

revealed in this report. It should be noted that the report identified Mr. Prado of my investigation as Dairo Prado Diaz. The report ended with the statement “nothing further at this time”.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.11115	Child and adult protection plan
	(1) A camp shall develop and follow a written plan to assure compliance with 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.621 and known as the child protection law, and sections 11 to 11f and 14 of 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.11 to 400.11f and 400.14, and known as the adult protection law.
ANALYSIS:	The camp has a child protection plan that meets the intent of this rule. Interview with Mr. Dreffs and counselor Prado revealed that the plan was implemented as outlined. While I completed additional interviews with director Diamond, Counselor Kurtansky, volunteer Fenslau, and Relative A1 and reviewed the police report for the incident, I was not able to determine with certainty that Mr. Prado choked Camper A as alleged.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

On 09/05/2023, I shared the findings of this report with director Dreffs. Mr. Dreffs stated that he was satisfied with the findings of this special investigation.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change to the status of the license.

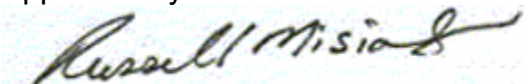


09/05/2023

Kay Foreman
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



8/30/23

Russell B. Misiak
Area Manager

Date