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

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

September 10, 2025

Luke Gerke
YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin
1095 N. Briggs Rd.
Middleville, MI 49333

RE: License #: CR080200899
Investigation #: 2025C0458002
YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin

Dear Camp Administrator:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above-mentioned 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.
- Signed and dated corrective action plan.

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.

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. If I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the licensing unit at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,

Kristen Goodman

Kristen Goodman, Licensing Consultant
Camp Licensing Unit
105 W. Allegan St
Lansing, MI 48933
517-648-6164

Enclosure

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
CAMP LICENSING UNIT
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CR080200899
Investigation #:	2025C0458002
Complaint Receipt Date:	06/23/2025
Investigation Initiation Date:	06/24/2025
Report Due Date:	08/23/2025
Licensee Name:	YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin
Licensee Address:	1095 N. Briggs Rd. Middleville, MI 49333
Licensee Telephone #:	269-205-9007
Administrator:	Luke Gerke
Name of Facility:	YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin
Facility Address:	1095 N. Briggs Rd. Middleville, MI 49333
Facility Telephone #:	269-205-9007
Original Issuance Date:	06/01/1913
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	09/09/2023
Expiration Date:	09/08/2025
Capacity:	363
Program Type:	CAMP SITE - RESIDENTIAL

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Campers were not properly supervised.	Yes
Additional findings	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

06/21/2025	Special Investigation Intake 2025C0458002
06/24/2025	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site
08/22/2025	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub Compliance
09/10/2025	Exit conference
09/25/2025	Corrective Action Plan Requested and Due on

ALLEGATION:

Campers were not properly supervised.

INVESTIGATION:

On 06/23/25, centralized intake forwarded the complaint to licensing after being screened out by Child Protective Services. The complaint read:

> *"Camper 1 (C1) (17) and Camper 2 (C2) (15) are not related but attended YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin together. On 06/19/25, C1 and C2 allegedly engaged in sex acts (manual stimulation of genitals) on a bus trip during camp."*

On 06/24/25, I interviewed Camp Director Luke Gerke at the camp. He stated that he found out about the alleged incident on Saturday, June 21. He received a phone call from a concerned parent, (Parent 3A), the mother of Camper 3 (C3). C3 was not directly involved but witnessed the incident on the bus. C3 returned home and reported the incident to her mother who then reported the incident to the local law enforcement. Mr. Gerke explained that he was contacted by the Barry County Sherrif's Department (Case #25-04231) to inform him that they received a report but did not see any reason for continued police involvement in the alleged incident. After the fact, Mr. Gerke stated he was told the incident happened at the back of the bus, and that both campers involved vehemently denied any misconduct. Mr. Gerke indicated that SM1 and SM2 were in the first and second rows behind the driver. Mr. Gerke explained that staff members were not instructed on seating charts or seating arrangements. Mr. Gerke provided written copies of the *YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin 2025 Staff Manual*, the *YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Employee Handbook and the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Child Abuse Prevention Policies Manual.*

On 06/24/2025, I interviewed counselor SM1 at the camp. SM1 stated that this is their sixth season as a Counselor at Camp Manitou-Lin where they were also a camper for eight years prior to their employment. SM1 explained that there were seven participants on the trip. The bus driver and two camp counselors were present on the bus. SM1 explained that the back row was used for luggage, the campers sat two per seat and C1 was given their own seat. SM1 stated that C1 slept most of the ride home, except for the last hour of the trip when C1 and C2 were talking. SM1 stated that they were turned in their seat toward the back of the bus to supervise the campers.

On 07/22/2025, I interviewed a Counselor Staff Member (SM2) at the camp. SM2 said that they sat directly behind the driver returning from travel camp and assisted the driver with navigation. SM2 stated that SM1 was primarily responsible for monitoring campers because they can get car sick. SM2 explained that it is difficult to look back constantly, so they used rearview mirror occasionally for check on the campers.

On 07/22/2025, I reviewed the *YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Child Abuse Prevention Policies*, *YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Employee Handbook* and the *YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin 2025 Staff Manual* documents. The *YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Child Abuse Prevention Policies* address transportation guidelines for all YMCA vehicles and, “Require staff to sit in seats that permit maximum supervision.”

On 07/22/2025, I viewed the vehicle used for transporting the campers during the alleged incident. The vehicle is a 15-passenger bus. The seating arrangement of the bus provided three two-person seats behind the driver with an open area at the rear for item storage. The passenger side of the bus provided four two-person seats with no additional space at the rear. To maintain maximum supervision, at least one staff member should have been positioned at the rear of the bus.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.11111	**Number of Staff.**
	(1) A camp shall develop and follow a written staffing ratio plan for the camper population served. A camp shall ensure that the ratio is not less than as specified in subrule (2) of this rule.

ANALYSIS:	The camp has a camper supervision policy and system in place for offsite transportation. Staff interviews and review of camp transportation policy revealed that although staff maintained an appropriate staff to camper ratio, staff did not sit in seats that permitted maximum supervision per organization policy.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

ADDITIONAL FINDING:

INVESTIGATION:

Mr. Gerke noted that the alleged incident was not reported to him at the time SM1 became aware of the alleged incident, but he wished SM1 would have reported their communication with the campers to him or camp leadership. Mr. Gerke explained that after the campers deboarded from the bus and returned to their cabins, C3 pulled SM1 aside and reported that C1 had their hand on the thigh of C2. Mr. Gerke explained that SM1 did not pursue the matter further after asking additional questions.

SM1 explained that they had overheard campers during the trip saying that they were going to try to get C1 kicked out of camp. SM1 stated that after returning from the trip, they had a separate conversation with C1 and C2. C1 admitted to having their hand on the thigh of C2, but nothing else. C2 said that C1 was comforting them, and nothing else. SM1 noted that they had not observed any leading behaviors between C1 and C2 during the trip.

SM2 stated that they were not aware of any inappropriate behavior between campers going on during the trip. The alleged incident was brought to SM2's attention by SM1 after returning to camp.

I reviewed the *YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin 2025 Staff Manual* states, in part,

> *"…YMCA employees will comply with the child protection law and adult protection law. If at any time abuse is suspected, either physical or sexual, staff must report this to the Program Coordinator, who in turn must report it to the Program Director. A report will be made to the proper authorities according to the latest Department of Social Services regulations."*

I also reviewed the *YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids Child Abuse Prevention Policies* which states,

> *"To adequately respond to and track incidents within the organization, all sexual activity between youths and sexualized behaviors of youths must be consistently documented via an incident report."*

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 written child protection plan. Though a child protection plan has been established, the organization's policy was not followed for incident reporting.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

On 9/10/2025, I conducted an exit conference with license designee Luke Gerke on Microsoft Teams. I reviewed the findings of this report. Mr. Gerke stated he understood the findings of the report and would submit a corrective action plan within the specified timeframe.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

A written corrective action plan is required for violations. I recommend the license remain unchanged.

Kristen Goodman 9/3/2025
Kristen Goodman Date
Camp Licensing Consultant

Approved By:
D. S. Ramsey 09/03/2025
Deondra S. Ramsey Date
Out-of-School Time Grants and Camp
Licensing Manger