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

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

August 25, 2026

Travis Favreau
Michawana
5800 Head Lake Rd.
Hastings, MI 49058

RE: License #: CR080200435
Investigation #: 2026C0458002
Michawana

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. 2nd Floor
Lansing, MI 48909
enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	CR080200435
Investigation #:	2026C0458002
Complaint Receipt Date:	06/11/2026
Investigation Initiation Date:	06/12/2026
Report Due Date:	08/11/2026
Licensee Name:	Michawana
Licensee Address:	5800 Head Lake Rd. Hastings, MI 49058
Licensee Telephone #:	616-780-8074
Administrator:	Travis Favreau
Name of Facility:	Michawana
Facility Address:	5800 Head Lake Rd. Hastings, MI 49058
Facility Telephone #:	616-780-8074
Original Issuance Date:	06/01/1998
Effective Date:	09/12/2024
Expiration Date:	09/11/2026
Capacity:	311
Program Type:	CAMP SITE - RESIDENTIAL

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Camp did not ensure the camp site did not present a safety hazard.	Yes
Camp did not follow their emergency procedures for severe weather.	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

6/11/2026	Special Investigation Intake 2026C0458002
6/12/2026	Special Investigation Initiated - Letter
6/17/2026	Inspection Completed On Site
08/10/2026	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub Compliance
08/25/2026	Exit Conference
09/09/2026	Corrective Action Plan Requested and Due on

IV. INVESTIGATION AND FINDINGS

ALLEGATION:

Camp did not ensure the camp site did not present a safety hazard.

INVESTIGATION:

On 6/11/2026, the Camp Licensing Unit received a licensing complaint. The complaint read:

> *"Camp either does not have a weather readiness plan or does not follow it. A severe storm came through on 6/10 with straight line winds. This was not a pop-up storm. It was a storm talked about for days. Camp had kids all over outdoors and did nothing to bring them in prior to the storm's arrival. It appears kids were way out in the athletic field far from any protection and also at the waterfront. I heard reports that a tree fell at the waterfront from the wind while campers were still down there."*

On 06/12/2026, I sent an email to Executive Director of Operations Travis Favreau requesting a copy of the staff training manual including emergency procedures policies. A copy of the *Michawana Employee Handbook* was received on 6/13/2026.

On 06/17/2026, I interviewed Travis Favreau at the camp. Travis stated that on 06/10/2026, there was a storm at the camp causing a total loss of power. Travis noted that the camp has generators that allowed campers to move from the chapel to the dining hall which was operational. These generators also provided the ability for the bathhouses to continue to operate until power was restored between 6:00PM-

8:00PM the evening of 06/11/2026. Mr. Favreau said that a tree behind the dining hall and another tree on the road leading from the fields to the main office had come down in the storm. Mr. Favreau noted that he was on property on 06/10/2026, but that Executive Director of Ministry Rochelle Visser was in charge.

Mr. Favreau also discussed the storm that was tornado warned the following evening on 06/11/2026 and said that he was off campus at the time, but that all procedures were followed. The procedures that Mr. Favreau said were followed included moving everyone into an internal setting in the chapel. Younger campers were placed under a pavilion in the RV campground area until they could be safely shuttled to the main campus. Mr. Favreau noted that a tornado warning notification was not received at camp that evening. Mr. Favreau stated that Ms. Visser was onsite the evening of 06/11/2026 as acting director.

On 6/17/2026, I interviewed Executive Director of Ministry Rochelle Visser. Ms. Visser stated that on 06/10/2026 the camp lost power due to a storm. Ms. Visser said that at the time of the storm, one group of campers was located at the flagpole playing field games adjacent to the chapel and the other group was located at the athletic fields. No campers were at high adventure activities or the waterfront. Ms. Visser said that a tree fell where campers were traveling from the athletic fields to the chapel and another tree came down behind the dining hall.

Ms. Visser also discussed the storm that was tornado warned on 06/11/2026. Ms. Visser noted that no notification of a tornado warning was received for this storm. Ms. Visser said that the younger group of campers was in the RV campground pavilion during this storm because they were already at the pavilion for a skit program. Campers were kept in the pavilion until the storm passed, then shuttled back to the main camp area in vehicles where they were dropped off at their cabins. During the time of the storm the older group of campers was in the chapel. This group of campers were released to walk to their cabins after the storm had passed.

On 6/17/2026, I interviewed counselor staff member (SM1) at the camp. SM1 said that during the 6/10 severe thunderstorm warning, their group of campers was out on the athletic fields playing games. SM1 was hearing radio communications about weather reports outside of the camp’s location. SM1 decided to end their group activity early. Within five minutes of making the decision to end their activity and walk their group to the chapel, the wind greatly increased, prompting their camper group to begin running to the chapel. SM1 was at the back of the camper group to ensure all campers made it to the chapel. There were approximately 60-70 campers on the road between the athletic fields and the chapel. SM1 noted that there was a tree across the road being traveled but it was not on the ground. SM1 did not see the tree come down. SM1 stated that all campers made it to the chapel at which time SM1 checked in with other cabin leaders. Ms. Visser went to the front of the chapel and started the chapel service. Power was lost during this time, so flashlights were used to continue with chapel service. After chapel all campers were moved to the dining hall where a generator was available and a break in the weather allowed

campers to be moved. At bedtime all campers were sent to their cabins with their cabin leaders. Power was not restored to camp until late the following day on 6/11.

SM1 stated that on 6/11/2026 they were with their campers at the pavilion in the RV park. SM1 observed thunder and lightning. The camp van was used to take campers back to their cabins between 10:00PM and 11:00PM. SM1 does not recall having power restored when they returned to their cabins. The power was restored after they returned to their cabins. The other group of campers was at the chapel at this time.

On 6/17/2026, I interviewed counselor staff member (SM2) at the camp. SM2 explained that staff are trained to listen for a certain amount of train whistle blows for severe thunderstorms or tornado warnings. For tornado warnings they are to move to internal buildings and take a camper count. This information is provided to them during staff training where they completely read through manual and review and discuss manual topics together.

SM2 stated that on 6/10/2026 all elementary aged campers, approximately 20-30 campers, were out at the flagpole area behind the main office. SM2 and other counselors noticed darkness in the distance and moved their campers to the dining hall. After it started raining, a call was put out on the radio requesting the group move to the chapel. A camper count was taken upon arrival at the chapel. During chapel time camp power was lost. SM2 left the chapel with their campers around 8:30PM and it was sunny out. Campers headed to the dining hall where a generator was able to provide power to the building. When it was time for bed, SM2 took their campers to their cabin. There was no power in the cabins. Campers and counselors used flashlights to see, but running water was still available. Power was restored late Thursday evening.

SM2 said that on 6/11/2026 the weather was fine all day. After dinner, SM2’s camper group played a game and went to the pavilion in the RV park, arriving at 8:00PM. SM2 noted that it started raining at 9:00PM and increased to a downpour. When the rain calmed down, campers and counselors were transported back to their cabins. Other staff were transported in a second group. SM2 stated that they were checking their phone for weather but did not really see anything of concern.

On 6/17/2026, I interviewed counselor staff member (SM3) at the camp. SM3 said that they are trained in policies and procedures at staff training by going through each page of the staff manual. SM3 explained that for a Tornado warning, they will hear three whistle blows at which time they are to go to buildings with internal settings. SM3 stated that on 6/10/2026 they were at the athletic fields with their campers. The weather initially looked nice, but clouds started rolling in and they observed lightning. SM3 decided to end their group activity and head to the chapel. SM3 noted it was approximately five minutes between making the decision to leave the athletic fields and the wind picking up. As SM3 was walking with camper group down the road from the athletic field, they heard cracking and saw a tree starting to

fall up ahead. The camper group began to run toward the chapel, but to get to the chapel they walked under the fallen tree which was being supported by another tree it landed on across the roadway. SM3 noted that campers could walk upright under this fallen tree. All campers were taken to the chapel where a buddy check system was used by counselors to make sure all campers were accounted for. While in the chapel, power was lost. When chapel concluded SM3 and the other counselor staff members moved their campers to the dining hall where power was provided by a generator. Power was restored at some point on 6/11/2026, but SM3 did not recall the time.

SM3 stated that on 6/11/2026 their group did activities around the main camp buildings and went indoors if there was any weather. They did not remember the day being as weather active as 6/10/2026.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R400.11149(1)	**Site safety; emergency procedure; use of facilities; equipment; fire safety orientation.**
	(1) A camp shall ensure that the site and facilities of a camp do not present a fire, health, or safety hazard.
ANALYSIS:	Staff interviews revealed that appropriate safety measures were not taken by the camp during inclement weather and staff did not take appropriate precautions in transporting their campers to the nearest internal setting shelter.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

ALLEGATION:

Camp did not follow their emergency procedures for severe weather.

INVESTIGATION:

Ms. Visser stated that on 6/10/2026 the weather was being monitored by using the weather application on her phone and exchanging texts with Mr. Favreau for updates. At approximately 7:30 PM, Ms. Visser radio communicated with counselors for all campers to be brought to the chapel.

Ms. Visser explained that the weather policy is that in light rain activities continue as long as it is safe to do so. In moderate rain, games and aquatic activities can continue. If thunder or lightning occurs campers are to be moved into safe, covered buildings including the pavilions. For a tornado warning, there will be five blasts of the train whistle. Staff does a camper count by radio and notifies the director. Tornado shelters are the bathhouses and the chapel. Campers will be directed to these locations as it is safe to do so. Ms. Visser said that staff are trained in severe weather procedures as a part of their pre-service training. Staff are provided with a

digital copy of the staff manual and are directed to read through the manual. Staff are prompted to ask questions regarding the content of the manual, some role-playing activities are facilitated by administrators, and a debriefing is done for each section of the manual.

On 06/15/2026, I reviewed *Section 4 – Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP)* of the *Michawana Employee Handbook*. Page 58 of the handbook addresses Weather Watches stating,

> "Watches are issued by the National Weather Service to notify all that there is the potential for severe weather. The camp weather monitor will broadcast these weather watches. The camp leadership will follow the weather developments and announce conditions that require action."

Severe weather and tornado warning procedures are also addressed on pages 58 and 59 of the *Michawana Employee Handbook* stating,

"*Severe Weather Warnings*
These will be announced over the radio by leadership staff.

In general, respond as follows:
- Stay calm.
- Listen to Leadership or Resident Staff Supervisors.
- Lifeguards may signal evacuation with long whistle blasts or other signals.
- Staff must stay with their campers at all times.
- Immediately account for all campers in your group.
- Know your closest shelter based on your current location.
- Go to the Dining Hall or nearest shelter (living unit or rainy-day area).

In case of severe wind:
- You will be alerted by intermittent car horns and/or camp whistle.
- Move immediately to nearest tornado area (Mishie or Keneu Bathhouse, Trading Post Bathrooms).
- If outside, lay face down in a ditch, hands over head.

In case of lightning:
- If thunder follows lightning within 2 seconds, seek shelter immediately.
- Use Dining Hall, Chapel, or nearest shelter.
- Do not shelter under trees.
- Avoid open ground.
- Do not wait to be told—move with urgency.

Tornado Warnings
- Signaled by intermittent car horn.
- Account for all campers.
- Move to designated tornado shelter.
- Do not open windows or doors.
- Stay put until leadership dismisses you.

Based on where you are when the intermittent car horn sounds, you will need to seek shelter in the proper locations. See list in appendix “A”. You should know these areas well to minimize response time and maximize safety. Leadership staff need to check in with the administrative assistant to report that all kids are accounted for and safely in their assigned area once they have arrived at a secure location (not ditches). The master camper list is located in the office.”

On 06/15/2026, I reviewed the severe weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service of Grand Rapids for Barry County where Michawana is located. On 06/10/2026, a severe thunderstorm watch was issued for Barry County at 5:45PM until 11:00PM. At 6:32PM a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Barry County until 7:32PM. On 06/11/2026, a tornado watch was issued for Barry County from 8:26PM until 2:00AM on 06/12/2026. At 8:58PM a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Barry County until 10:00PM. At 9:28PM a tornado warning was issued for Barry County until 10:15PM.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R400.11149(2)	**Site safety; emergency procedure; use of facilities; equipment; fire safety orientation.**
	(2) A camp shall establish written procedures for a response to potential emergencies and disasters, including fire, severe weather, and a lost camper.
ANALYSIS:	The camp has a written emergency action procedures plan. Though an emergency action procedures plan has been established, the organization’s practice does not conform to policy.
CONCLUSION:	**VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

On August 25, 2026, I conducted an exit conference with executive director Travis Favreau on Microsoft Teams. I reviewed the findings of this report. Mr. Favreau stated he understood the findings of the report and would submit a corrective action plan within the specified timeframe.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Upon submission of an acceptable written corrective action plan, I recommend no change in licensing status.

Kristen Goodman

Kristen Goodman
Licensing Consultant

08/10/2026
Date

Approved By:



08/18/2026

Deondra Ramsey, Manager
Out-of-School Time Learning and Camp Licensing

Date