

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

June 1, 2021

Robin Ucich, Person-in-Charge
Sunny Lodge Guest Home
47 Cedar Grove Avenue
New London, CT 06320

Dear Ms Ucich:

A telephone complaint investigation was conducted with Sunny Lodge Guest Home on May 25 and 28, 2021 by a representative of the Facility Licensing and Investigations Section of the Department of Public Health.

Attached is the violation of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and/or General Statutes of Connecticut which was noted during the course of the investigation. The state violations cannot be edited by the provider in any way.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, section 19a-496, upon a finding of noncompliance with such statutes or regulations, the Department shall issue a written notice of noncompliance to the institution. Not later than fourteen days after such institution receives a notice of noncompliance, the institution shall submit a plan of correction to the Department in response to the items of noncompliance identified in such notice.

The plan of correction is to be submitted to the Department by June 16, 2021.

The plan of correction shall include:

- (1) The measures that the institution intends to implement or systemic changes that the institution intends to make to prevent a recurrence of each identified issue of noncompliance;
- (2) the date each such corrective measure or change by the institution is effective;
- (3) the institution's plan to monitor its quality assessment and performance improvement functions to ensure that the corrective measure or systemic change is sustained; and
- (4) the title of the institution's staff member that is responsible for ensuring the institution's compliance with its plan of correction.



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410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
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The plan of correction shall be deemed to be the institution's representation of compliance with the identified state statutes or regulations identified in the department's notice of noncompliance. Any institution that fails to submit a plan of correction may be subject to disciplinary action.

You may wish to dispute the violation and you may be provided with the opportunity to be heard. If the violation is not responded to by June 16, 2021 or if a request for a meeting is not made by the stipulated date, the violation shall be deemed admitted.

Please return your response to the Supervising Nurse Consultant, 410 Capital Ave, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308. Please direct your questions concerning the instructions contained in this letter to the Supervising Nurse Consultant at (860) 509-7400.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at (860) 509-7400.

Respectfully,

Karen Gworek, RN
Karen Gworek, RN, BSN
Supervising Nurse Consultant
Facility Licensing and Investigation Section

KEG:csf

c. Mairead Painter, LTC Ombudsman Program

Complaint #30177

The following are a violation of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 19-13-D6 (c) Administration (1) and/or (h) General Conditions (3).

1. Based on review of facility documentation and interviews for three sampled residents the facility failed to report an incident of misappropriation of personal funds to the residents and the State Agency when the facility was informed by the local authorities. The findings include:
 - a. Interview with the Person-in-Charge on 5/25/21 identified the facility was reporting two (2) incidents in which residents' checks were removed from a locked mailbox by an employee. The facility was notified on 5/6/21 by the local authorities that the employee attempted to deposit two (2) residents' checks into an account that did not belong to the residents at a local bank. The Person-in-Charge identified she did not report the 5/6/21 incident until she realized on 5/14/21 another check missing for a few weeks may have been removed from the facility by the same employee and that check was deposited. Review of the Public Health Code indicates any accident, disaster, or other unusual occurrence in the institution shall be reported within seventy-two (720 hours to the state department of health.

June 9, 2021

Sunny Lodge

47 Cedar Grove Ave

New London CT 06320



Approved
7/12/21
KEG

Plan of Correction

Since the incident that occurred at Sunny Lodge, measures have been taken to ensure the residents income is safe and secured from any possible theft. On Friday, May 14th (the same day I reported the third missing check) I contacted Social Security. I had been considering switching banks for some time, and upon speaking to them, I decided it was best to start a client funds account with Charter Oak. Working with a Social Security supervisor, I moved my client's funds incomes from Bank of America to Charter Oak. I started this transition on May 14th. Over the last two weeks I have moved resident's incomes one by one to Charter Oak. To be as specific as I can; the supervisor from Social Security and I moved the accounts on May 19th, May 25th, and June 4th. As of today, all of their incomes are in this new account. As of the month of July, moving forward all resident checks will be deposited into this account. This will ensure that the resident's income will not exist in paper form whatsoever, keeping their money safe with Charter Oak. I, the person in charge, am fully in control and liable for this change and the responsibilities that come with it.

The action of eliminating paper checks not only ensures the safety of the resident's income by not existing physically, it also ensures that I will no longer have the responsibility of a physical check, one that I could lose or have stolen from me. I have been short staffed for months, and my reasoning for noncompliance is not fully justifiable, but was due to being overworked and not keeping track of these checks in the most efficient way possible. Directly depositing this money into the Charter Oak account puts these concerns to an end. This new system is safe and organized and will help me keep track of my resident's income.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]