pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Sent Via Email: jviti@montcopa.org**
**Mailing Date: February 28, 2017**

Mr. Joseph Viti, Executive Director
Montgomery County Youth Center
550 Port Indian Road
Norristown, PA 19403

RE: Montgomery County Youth Center
License #172290

Dear Mr. Viti:

As a result of the Department of Human Services' licensing inspection August 29, 2016 of the above facility, the violations with 55 Pa.Code Ch. 3800 (relating to Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities) specified on the enclosed License Inspection Summary were found.

All violations specified on the enclosed License Inspection Summary must be corrected by the dates specified on the License Inspection Summary and continued compliance with 55 Pa.Code Ch. 3800 must be maintained.

Sincerely,

Kevin Miller
Child Residential Licensing Manager

Enclosure
Licensing Inspection Summary

# VIOLATION REPORT
## CHILD RESIDENTIAL LICENSING - 55 Pa.Code Chapter 3800

| | |
|---|---|
| Facility Name: MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH CENTER | License Number: 17229 |
| Address: 550 PORT INDIAN ROAD, NORRISTOWN, PA 19403 | County: Montgomery |
| Director: Joseph Vill | Region: SOUTHEAST |
| Legal Entity Name: MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH CENTER | |
| Legal Entity Address: 550 PORT INDIAN ROAD, NORRISTOWN, PA 19403 | |

**Certificate(s) of Occupancy**
n/m

n/m

| Program Type: | Licensed Capacity: | Number of Children Served: |
|---|---|---|
| Residential Services | 12 | n/m |

| Type of Inspection: Partial | BHA Docket Number: | Notice: Unannounced |
|---|---|---|

**Reason(s) for Inspection(s)**
Complaint

**On-Site Inspections Dates and Department Representatives On-Site**
08/29/2016: Barr, Sara; Murray, Kaitlyn

**Off-Site Inspection Dates and Inspectors, If Applicable**

**Other Details**

Partial or Full Triggers:

Random Indicators:

**Child Demographic Data as of Inspection Dates**

| Age of Children: | Number of Children who: |
|---|---|
| 0 to 5 years: n/m | Are Adjudicated Delinquent: n/m |
| 6 to 13 years: n/m | Are Dependent: n/m |
| 14 to 17 years: n/m | Have Mental Illness: n/m |
| 18 to 21 years: n/m | Have an Intellectual Disability: n/m |
| | Have a Physical Disability: n/m |

Licensing Inspection Summary: 17229 - 08/29/2016 - Barr, Sara
Facility Name: MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH CENTER

1. REGULATION 55 Pa.Code §3800
3800.32(b) - A child may not be abused, mistreated, threatened, harassed or subject to corporal punishment.

2a. DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION
On [redacted] at 9:11 PM Child #1 was escorted by Staff Member A to get ice. Staff Member A escorted Child #1 to the administrative office area and stopped at the water cooler. While escorting Child #1 through the administrative area, Staff Member A did not turn the lights on. Staff Member A and Child #1 walked towards the conference room and did not reappear on camera for about four minutes. Staff Member A and Child #1 returned to Unit A. After two minutes of being back on the unit, Staff Member A and Child #1 left the unit again. Staff Member A escorted Child #1 through the cafeteria and Child #1 got ice. Staff Member A briefly turned the lights on inside the cafeteria. Staff Member A and Child #1 walk towards the court side of the building. Staff Member A checked the area before bringing Child # 1 outside to smoke a cigarette. Staff Member A and Child #1 reentered the building after they were finished smoking. Staff Member A walked in to the private community area room and Child #1 followed. Staff Member A and Child #1 were inside the room for about four minutes with the lights off. Staff Member A had alleged sexual intercourse with Child #1 inside the private community area room. The lights flickered briefly before Staff Member A exited the room and Child #1 followed.

3. PLAN OF CORRECTION (POC) (Attach pages as necessary. Remember that you must sign and date any attached pages.)
*Include steps to correct the violation described above and steps to prevent a similar violation from occurring again. If steps cannot be completed immediately, include dates by which the steps will be completed.*

Please see documents attached.

| Repeat Violation: No | Date(s) of Previous Violation(s): | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Signature of Legal Entity Representative (Required on EVERY Page) Joseph Vitil 01/12/17

Printed Name and Title of Legal Entity Representative (Required on EVERY Page) Joseph Vitil (Executive Director) — Date 01/12/17

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY - FACILITIES MAY NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE!

The above plan of correction is approved as of 1/17/17 (Date)

The above plan of correction was approved by KMM (Initials)

Plan of correction implementation status as of 1/17/17 (Date)

- ☐ Fully Implemented
- ☑ Partially Implemented - Adequate Progress
- ☐ Partially Implemented - Inadequate Progress
- ☐ Not Implemented

**Regulation 55 Pa. Code 3800- 3800.32(b)**

**Plan of Correction (POC)**

**Date: 01/06/17**

**Date of Incident: 08/27/16**

1.) Response:

A.) The alleged victim was immediately transported to Einstein Hospital for a medical exam. The allegation was also reported immediately to Childline and the Montgomery County Bureau of Detectives for a full criminal investigation. All notifications were made by Youth Center personnel including the child's legal guardian, placing agency (JPO) and MC Victim Services.

B.) All Federal PREA guidelines were followed in response to the incident with regards to evidence and data collection so that a thorough investigation could be conducted.

C.) All incident reports from the staff working that day were collected and scrutinized. This is standard protocol for any incident at the YC.

D.) The alleged perpetrator was contacted by phone and informed that [redacted] was placed on Administrative leave pending further notice. [redacted] was told not to report to the Youth Center or to have any contact with the Center or the alleged victim.

E.) On August 31, 2016, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken into custody by the Montgomery County Detectives. The alleged perpetrator is currently being held at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility awaiting further court proceedings.

F.) The alleged perpetrator was terminated from employment at the Montgomery County Youth Center effective September 21, 2016 as a result of [redacted] actions on [redacted]

**Note that the former employee in question did have the necessary and required clearances (Pa. State police, child abuse, FBI) to work with youth. In addition, the proper and required training that is mandated by the Department of Public Welfare was completed. The former employee failed to follow Youth Center policy and procedure in reference to staff supervision. As an organization we place great emphasis on the dignity and respect of the youth we serve.

KMM

2.) Mandatory staff meetings: Meetings were held with all direct care staff in both the Shelter and Detention programs [redacted] The purpose of these meetings were to outline and reinforce the Staff Supervision policy. We discussed that it is not permissible to escort a child off the living unit at night unless it is absolutely necessary and with proper Administrative approval. Supervisory staff will also need to know his or her destination and reasons. Staff was informed that the safety and security of the youth we serve is the most important aspect of the job. The policy provides for the most efficient supervision for the program with special emphasis on maintaining proper ratios (8:1). Furthermore, it was made clear that staff is not permitted to escort any resident off the property or out of the building without Administrative approval. Additionally, we discussed the roles and responsibilities of being a Mandated Reporter. During the meeting we discussed child abuse recognition, reporting procedures, staff responsibilities, patterns of staff/ residents boundary issues, disclosures of abuse and physical signs of abuse. It was made convincingly clear that all reasonable and suspicious signs of abuse must be reported to Childline and supervisory/ administrative staff. Each alleged incident will be fully reviewed and investigated. (See attached meeting logs with description)

3.) Training: Increase the training requirement as an agency to ensure that each staff member is required to have Mandated Reporter training every year. Currently, this specific training is conducted during the orientation phase and then every 5 years thereafter as the state mandate requires. Each employee who has direct contact with youth will obtain the educational training hours yearly moving forward. This increase to training is important as this specifically targets child abuse recognition and reporting procedures. (Small sample attached)

4.) Unannounced Administrative Supervision Checks: All Caseworkers/Administrators are to conduct a minimum of one unannounced documented tour of the housing units during each night shift that is worked. This change is to increase the level of supervision and provide for a report on the residents we serve and the staff we employee. The documented tour provides for the date and time conducted, observations witnessed and most importantly the assurance that all policies and procedures are being followed.

5.) Security Operations Center: The Youth Center was approved to upgrade our security cameras throughout the building for fiscal year 2017 to ensure that all areas of the facility can be screened and recorded. This upgrade involves replacing the existing outdated analog cameras to high definition IP cameras. In addition, the facility is adding additional cameras to ensure that all areas of the facility are covered. The security upgrade includes a control room, recording capability, and monitors for review.

01/06/17

KMM