



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Community Care Licensing Division – Statewide Children's Residential Program  
744 P Street, MS 8-3-54 Sacramento, CA 95814



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

October 25, 2011

Mr. John Hindman, Executive Director  
Morning Star Boys Ranch  
4511 Glenrose Rd.  
Spokane, Washington 99203

Dear Mr. Hindman:

**SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)**

Pursuant to California Family Code, Section 7911 et al., this is official notification that effective this date, Morning Star Boys Ranch located at; 4511 Glenrose Rd., Spokane Washington is certified as meeting California Group Home licensing standards. Certification is valid through November 2012.

California licensing standards require that all serious incidents continue to be reported to CDSS Out-of-State Placement Policy Unit for each child in care regardless of whether he or she is a California placement. Incident reporting shall include the following:

- a. Deaths
- b. Suicide attempts
- c. Suspected physical, sexual or psychological abuse
- d. Epidemic outbreaks and catastrophes
- e. Injuries and illnesses that require hospitalization or medical treatment (beyond first aid)
- f. Use of restraint (whether or not they result in an injury to a child)
- g. Any unusual incident or absence that threatens the physical or emotional health or safety of a child

Certification will continue to be reviewed annually. We will be following our Department policy which authorizes us to inspect facilities with or without appointment as necessary.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this report further, please contact me at: (916) 838-5875.

Sincerely,

OLANIYAN AKYEEM  
Out-of State Program Analyst

Enclosure

C: Rosalind Hyde, Deputy Compact Administrator, ICPC/Out-of-State Placement & Policy Unit

**FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT**CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 19-50  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

<b>FACILITY NAME:</b>	MORNING STAR BOYS RANCH	<b>FACILITY NUMBER:</b>	602300071
<b>ADMINISTRATOR:</b>	JOHN HINDMAN	<b>FACILITY TYPE:</b>	731
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	S. 4511 GLENROSE ROAD	<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	(509) 448-1202
<b>CITY:</b>	SPOKANE	<b>STATE:</b> WA	<b>ZIP CODE:</b> 99223
<b>CAPACITY:</b>	24	<b>CENSUS:</b>	UNANNOUNCED
<b>TYPE OF VISIT:</b>	Case Management	<b>DATE:</b>	09/28/2011
<b>MET WITH:</b>	John Hindman, Executive Director	<b>TIME BEGAN:</b>	09:30 AM
		<b>TIME COMPLETED:</b>	03:00 PM

**NARRATIVE**

1 PURPOSE OF VISIT:  
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4 As mandated by California law, this initial on-site visit was performed on September 29, 2011 by the  
5 undersigned analyst to assess and determine Morning Star's eligibility and suitability for certification  
6 by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS.)  
7  
8 CDSS certification requires the facility to be in substantial compliance with California's Title 22  
9 licensing regulations as they apply to children's group home facilities in the state of California as  
10 well as to be licensed and in good standing with the licensing laws and regulations of the state the  
11 facility is located, in this case, the state of Washington.  
12

13 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION/APPLICATION HISTORY:  
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15 The County of Lake Department of Social Services Agency submitted a letter of support for Morning  
16 Star Boys Ranch (MSBR) to be certified by the CDSS. The support letter indicated a need to place  
17 the youth in a lower level of care that was closer to his mother for purpose of family reunification.  
18 Thereafter, an application was provided to the facility which was subsequently completed and  
19 returned to the CDSS. In conjunction with the review of the application, this on-site visit was  
20 performed.  
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23 FACILITY AND PROGRAM INFORMATION:  
24  
25 Morning Star Boys Ranch is a community-based 24-bed Residential Treatment program located at  
the base of the spectacular Browne's Mountain area in Southeast Spokane Washington.

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME:** Mei Yuk Kung **TELEPHONE:** (916)654-0118**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Olaniyan Akyeem **TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5875**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:****DATE:** 10/25/2011

I acknowledge receipt of this form and understand my licensing appeal rights as explained and received.

**FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**

Original signature on file

**DATE:** 10/25/2011

This report must be available at Child Care and Group Home facilities for public review for 3 years.

**FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 19-50  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME: MORNING STAR BOYS RANCH

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300071

VISIT DATE: 09/28/2011

**NARRATIVE**

1 Morning Star was initially founded in 1956 and has served nearly 1,300 boys over the last five  
2 decades. The program serves as many as 24 boys between the ages of 6-18.  
3

4 In 1976 as demand grew, the Murphy House was built. Its pastoral setting allows the boys to  
5 experience both rural and urban living. The living unit is has the capacity to house 24 boys on three  
6 levels. The lower level includes six residents rooms in addition to spacious living room, recreation  
7 room, chapel, laundry, storage and other service facilities. The middle level included resident's  
8 rooms, staff offices, kitchen, a library and dining hall. The upper level also is dedicated to the  
9 resident's rooms and offices. The campus includes and art room, equine educational program,  
10 horse barn & stalls, a large ball park / playfield, and regulation-size gymnasium fully equipped with a  
11 weight room. Morning star also includes a variety of farm animals such as horses, cows, chickens,  
12 geese, dogs, cats and goats.  
13  
14

15 Morning Star is committed to reunifying boys with their families. In those instances where  
16 reunification is not possible, the focus becomes the achievement of safe, permanent homes through  
17 kinship care, adoption, or long-term guardianship so that every boy has the opportunity to develop in  
18 a supportive, nurturing environment. These outcomes are attained through a comprehensive  
19 program which included assessment of the youth's strengths, solutions based case management,  
20 family reunification and/or permanency planning, and resolution of the precipitating issues that led  
21 to placement. When required, effective plans to address psychiatric needs are developed and  
22 implemented. Throughout the treatment period, focus is placed on utilizing community resources to  
23 broaden the network of support for residents and their families thereby strengthening their ability to  
24 thrive once the child has returned home. Older residents who plan to live independently develop  
25 the skills necessary to be self-sufficient through detailed transition planning which included  
26 transitional living accommodations.  
27  
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29 As behaviors are stabilized and emotional issues addressed, residents demonstrate:  
30  
31

- 32 • improved daily living skills
- improved social skills

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung

TELEPHONE: (916)654-0118

LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME: Olaniyan Akyeem

TELEPHONE: (916) 838-5875

LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:

DATE: 10/25/2011

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Original signature on file

DATE: 10/25/2011

**FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 19-50  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME: MORNING STAR BOYS RANCH

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300071

VISIT DATE: 09/28/2011

**NARRATIVE**1  
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- improved emotional regulation skills
- improved school performance (attendance, behavior, and grades)
- increased self-esteem
- decreased incidents of elopement
- decreased drug and/or alcohol involvement
- decreased interaction with the legal system

Morning Star provides an individualized, comprehensive approach to treatment. Residents are provided counseling in both individual and group settings. Within the milieu, residents are able to gain insight and improve behavior because expectations are clear, and consistent consequences are applied. Psychotropic prescriptions are managed by a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist who meets monthly with the residents and his social worker to ensure that medications and dosages are appropriate.

Education: All residents attend private or public schools in the area. Morning Star staff includes counselors with K-12 grade experience who work closely with teachers to see that home work is completed on time and classroom behavior and attitude are appropriate. This affords the residents the opportunity to experience success in the classroom by learning to resolve conflicts in a healthy manner and understanding how their behavior and work ethic impacts achievement. Enrollment in regular classroom situations makes it easier for parents to build upon academic progress once the resident returns home.

Morning Star also contracts with a certified teacher to design and implement a summer school program to remediate academic deficits as well as ignite each boy's natural curiosity by emphasizing the fun of learning new things. An adjustment to summer school is an experimental learning component which focuses on engaging residents to work together in small groups to accomplish a task.

**EMERGENCY INTERVENTION PROCEDURES**

Morning Star Boys Ranch uses the Safe Crisis Management Systems (Non Violent Crisis Intervention Programs) to train staff in crisis management and emergency intervention procedures.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung

TELEPHONE: (916)654-0118

LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME: Olaniyan Akyeem

TELEPHONE: (916) 838-5875

LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:



DATE: 10/25/2011

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FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:

Original signature on file

DATE: 10/21/2011

**FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 19-50  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME: MORNING STAR BOYS RANCH

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300071

VISIT DATE: 09/28/2011

**NARRATIVE**

1 This program utilizes verbal de-escalation skills as the primary intervention method. Physical holds  
2 or controls are a last resort, and only applied when verbal techniques have been exhausted, and  
3 when the youth presents a danger to himself, others or property.  
4

5 The facility does not have or utilize a protective separation or "time out" room for seclusion.  
6 However, brief time-out in the individuals bedrooms are given as consequences. Other methods of  
7 discipline may include loss of privileges or participation in special activities.  
8  
9

**WASHINGTON LICENSING INFORMATION:**

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12 Morning Star Boys Ranch is a Group Care facility licensed by the State of Washington, Department  
13 of Social and Health Services to serve 24 male youth ages 6 -18. The facility's is also licensed as a  
14 Day Treatment Program and a Child Placing Agency in the state of Washington.  
15

16 Morning Star Boys ranch has never had a contract terminated or a license revoked. However, after  
17 extensive research into the history of the program it was learned that there had been several  
18 lawsuits filed by previous residents alleging sexual abuse. The most recent allegation is now  
19 approximately 27 years old. The most recent law suit filed in these cases was in February 2008,  
20 which was considered to be among the strongest cases against the program and former  
21 employee's. In February 2010, following a very short deliberation, the jury unanimously rejected the  
22 defendant's claim.  
23  
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25 On 10/4/11, contact was made with the Washington licensing representative who provided some  
26 additional insight /overview of the history of these alleged abuse allegations. It was reported that at  
27 this point, the strongest cases have been presented without any substantiated findings. It is further  
28 believed that nothing is expected to be proven on any of the remaining/ pending cases. The State of  
29 Washington, Department of Social Services is confident that the Morning Star program poses no  
30 current threat to the health and/or safety of the children in care. It was further reported that Morning  
31 Star Boys Ranch is in good standing with the State Department and there has been no  
32 substantiated complaints in the last year. Their current license is valid through November 30, 2013.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung

TELEPHONE: (916)654-0118

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**FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 19-50  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME: MORNING STAR BOYS RANCH

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300071

VISIT DATE: 09/28/2011

**NARRATIVE**FIRE CLEARANCE:

The facility is inspected yearly by the Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau. A certificate of fire clearance was last issued on 6/10/11 and is good through August 8, 2011.

WATER: The facility is operated on non-private public water source.

STAFF BACKGROUND CLEARANCES:

The State of Washington, Division of Licensed Resources requires background checks (*criminal record and child abuse*) to be conducted on all providers who may have unsupervised access to children or individuals with a developmental disability and/or in a department licensed or contracted home(s), or facilities which provide care to children. The checks are accomplished through facility staff completing a standardized authorization form with personal descriptor information and submitting it to the State of Washington, Division of Licensed Resources. The facility maintains evidence of clearances in employee files.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION REVIEW:

- Review of application and program material submitted.
- Verification of licensure status with Washington licensing authorities.
- Program consultation and discussion with Executive Director John Hindman and Program Director. Jason Hayes
- Physical tour/inspection of facility and amenities
- For purpose of this certification, a Waiver Exception for use of combination locks on the entrance to bedroom doors is approved through request and approval of a waiver.

FINDINGS: Based on the application submitted and the onsite visit performed, initial certification is approved. The facility was found to meet and/or exceed California licensing standards as well as to be in substantial compliance with the State of Washington as they apply to children's group home facilities.

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