



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

September 14, 2015

STARR ALBION PREP – 602300089
13725 26 Mile Road
Albion, MI 49224

SUBJECT: Initial Certification by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

CAPACITY: 240 Male and Female Youth, Ages 12-17

Pursuant to California Family Code, Section 7911 et al., this is official notification that certification for Starr Albion Prep, located at 13660 26 Mile Road, Albion, MI 49224 is approved through September 2016.

Certification will be re-reviewed annually or more often should non-compliance with California Title 22 licensing standards as they apply to California group homes become questionable or at issue. Additionally, serious incidents must be reported to the CDSS Out-of-State Placement Policy Unit for each child in care regardless of whether he 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 health or safety of a child

While certified, we will continue to follow our Department policy which authorizes us to inspect facilities with or without an appointment as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 651-5380; or Certification Analyst Carol Lancaster at (916) 838-5751.

Sincerely,

[Original signature on file](#)

Marisa Sanchez, Manager I
Children’s Residential Program
Community Care Licensing

C: Monica Jackson, Manager and Deputy Compact Administrator, Out-of-State Placement and Policy Unit

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

FACILITY NAME:	STARR ALBION PREP.	FACILITY NUMBER:	602300089
ADMINISTRATOR:	RANDY COPAS	FACILITY TYPE:	731
ADDRESS:	13660 26 MILE ROAD	TELEPHONE:	(517) 630-2306
CITY:	ALBION	STATE:	MI
CAPACITY:	10x 240 Initial	CENSUS:	96
TYPE OF VISIT:	Case Management Cert.	ANNOUNCED	
DATE:		DATE:	08/27/2015
MET WITH:	Martha Dobbins, Group Living Director; Kelley Jones, Admissions Director; Laura Brand-Bauer, Controller; Tony Bentley, H.R. Director	TIME BEGAN:	09:38 AM
		TIME COMPLETED:	03:39 PM

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25PURPOSE OF VISIT:

As mandated by California law, this initial on-site inspection performed by the undersigned on August 27, 2015, was made in order to assess and determine Starr Albion Academy's eligibility and suitability to be certified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as an out-of-state group home provider. In order to be certified, an out-of-state group home must:

1. be in substantial compliance with California's Title 22 licensing regulations which apply to children's group homes in California; as well as
2. be licensed and in good standing with the licensing laws of the state the facility is located in -- in this case the state of Michigan.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION / APPLICATION HISTORY:

In a letter dated July 15, 2015, the Merced County Probation Department requested CDSS certification of Starr Albion Academy for a difficult to place (602 W&I) probation youth ordered into out-of-home care and treatment by a juvenile court judge. Thereafter, the facility submitted application material to the CDSS which, along with this inspection, a certification decision will be based.

FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING:

Starr Albion Academy, located in Albion, Michigan, is 80 miles due west of Detroit-Wayne Airport in the state of Michigan. Situated on 360 beautifully rural wooded acres, Starr Albion Academy began as Starr Commonwealth for Boys in 1913, having been founded by an idealistic young man by the name of Floyd Starr.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:****DATE:** 10/06/2015


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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**DATE:** 10/06/2015

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 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** STARR ALBION PREP.**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300089**VISIT DATE:** 08/27/2015**NARRATIVE**1
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32**FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING:** (Continued)

Starr grew up in the area from humble beginnings, the son of largely a farmer by trade. During his younger years, he formed the belief: "There is no such thing as a bad boy." Under this belief, Floyd Starr, who also loved to talk, would one day become a highly educated and gifted debater and orator who, through his extensive professional travels, would meet many influential people who would later play a role in Starr's commitment to assisting Michigan's troubled youth.

Today, Starr Albion Prep, operated as a non-profit, non-secure children's residential treatment facility, is just over a hundred years old and continues its tradition of serving its mission to create positive environments where children flourish. What originally began in a barn on a plot of farm land and served as a home for 22 troubled youth is now a 240 bed facility.

Spread over the campus are 18 living structures, 17 of which are family like homes (termed cottages.) Each cottage provides housing and living amenities for 12 to 15 youth. The only non-cottage living structure on the campus is in a building which contains two 15-bed units that operate as substance abuse programs - - each serving up to 15 youth. With the exception of one cottage, all currently serve adolescent males. There are three types of programming:

1. Juvenile Justice Program
2. Sexually Reactive Youth Program
3. Substance Abuse Program

Juvenile Justice Program

Serves at-risk and delinquent males helping them to develop interpersonal problem-solving and cooperative-learning skills in a therapeutic group setting. Length of stay varies by individual treatment needs, averaging five and a half months. With strength based practices, the program helps young men identify their strengths and capitalize on those abilities. Three of the operating cottages on campus offer this specific programming. Students are assigned to a cottage with like-aged peers.

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FACILITY NUMBER: 602300089

VISIT DATE: 08/27/2015

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32FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING: (Continued)Sexually Reactive Youth Program

This program works with young men who have sexually offended and are at moderate to high risk to re-offend. The length of the program varies depending on individual treatment needs, averaging 16 months. Group therapy allows young men to interact with other teens facing the same issues and helps them learn to take responsibility for their actions. Also using a strength-based treatment philosophy, help is provided so that clients develop new values that guide their behavior into the future. There are three different cottages that offer this programming. Students are assigned to the one with peers who are like-aged and/or maturity level.

Substance Abuse Program

The Seven Challenges substance abuse treatment modality is offered here. Through utilizing this specific programming, students learn to make thoughtful, informed decisions about their substance abuse and redirecting their strengths into constructive behaviors. Staff trained in this modality also help students understand how their behavior affects others and how they can successfully return to homes, schools and communities. Youth placed in this program have typically experienced court involvement and require a higher level of structure and security than a community-based program can adequately provide. Average length of stay is four and a half months. This facility is licensed in the State of Michigan by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to offer this specialized programming. This programming is offered in the two living units contained within the Mary Katherine building. Each unit houses up to 15.

Girls Program Description:

Starr Albion has one cottage (Newton Hall) on the campus that serves female youth age 12-17. The program offered is a non-secure Juvenile Justice Program with the primary treatment modality being Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT.) Newton Hall is a considerable distance on the campus from the homes housing the males - - males and females rarely co-mingling. Recently remodeled, Newton Hall was one of the first homes built on the campus in 1915. Grand in structure and appearance, it is a large two story home with a full basement and has a special home-like feel.

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NARRATIVE

1 FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING: (Continued)

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3 At the time of this initial review, the facility's census was 96.

4
5 Operating Cottages (all serving males):

- 6
- 7 ● Herrick
- 8 ● Flynn
- 9 ● Oliver
- 10 ● Kindel
- 11 ● Allen
- 12 ● Besser
- 13 ● Kesgi/Towsley (Mary Katherine building.)
- 14

15 Girls cottage, Newton Hall, is slated to open October 1, 2015.

16
17 Non-Operating Cottages

- 18
- 19 ● Kresge
- 20 ● Kutsche
- 21 ● Ceeley
- 22 ● Houston
- 23 ● Mendelssohn
- 24 ● Reynolds
- 25 ● Wilcox
- 26 ● Payne
- 27 ● Norton
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3 In addition to the living cottages and units spread over the campus, there are many other buildings and
4 amenities to include, but not limited to: School buildings, supply center, indoor recreation center with
5 swimming pool, full gymnasium, professional athletic track and field, the original old barn (no longer serves
6 as living quarters), basketball courts, guest cottage, a chapel, a museum, various forms of landscape art,
7 administrative office, conference center, Montcalm Lake and Floyd Starr's grave site.
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10 STATE OF MICHIGAN LICENSING INFORMATION:

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12 The facility is licensed in the State of Michigan as a 240-bed Child Caring Institution by the Michigan
13 Department of Human Services, Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (License #C1130201440.) The most
14 current license was issued September 4, 2014 and is good for two years (expires September 3, 2016.) Just
15 prior to this license being issued, an inspection was conducted. The facility is in good standing with Michigan
16 Licensing.
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18 FIRE CLEARANCE:

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21 The most recent fire inspection was conducted April 1, 2014. Prior to Michigan Licensing renewing any
22 facility's license, a fire inspection is required. The fire inspection conducted on April 1, 2014 was performed in
23 conjunction with the September 4, 2014 renewal and the facility was fire cleared.
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26 ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH INSPECTION

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28 An environmental/health inspection was last conducted August 20, 2014 and a clearance was issued.
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31 EDUCATION:

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The facility has an on grounds school. Both the facility's residential treatment programming and the academic
schooling offered are accredited by the Council on Accreditation. The current accreditation is good through
September 30, 2018.

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32OTHER ACCREDITATIONS / CERTIFICATIONS:Substance Abuse:

The Substance Abuse Program offered at Starr Albion is licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (L832530; good through July 31, 2016.)

Council on Accreditation:

As mentioned previously, Starr Albion is accredited by the Council on Accreditation - - current accreditation good through September 30, 2018.

Crisis Intervention/Physical Management Training:

Facility staff who work directly with the children in care are trained in SAFE Crisis Management, a nationally accredited method of crisis intervention and physical management training. To become initially certified, staff attend a two day course which is incorporated into new staff training. Subsequent to becoming certified and maintaining their certification, staff are required to attend monthly refresher training. The facility has numerous staff who are trained as trainers and who provide the training. Like most crisis intervention training programs, teaching staff de-escalation methods and techniques is the primary objective; physical management escorts and holds are used only as a last resort when de-escalation proves unsuccessful and the client continues to present a danger to self and/or others.

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- Entrance interview. The following facility representatives were in attendance and participated: Martha Dobbins, Group Living Director, Bill Dean, Vice-President of Operations; Kelley Jones, Admissions Director, Laura Brand-Bauer, Controller, Tony Bentley, Human Resources Director. Entrance interview entailed continued collection, review and discussion of application and program material, discussion of California Licensing standards, requirements and expectations, questions and answers session.
- Buildings and grounds tour.
- A sample of staff records reviewed.
- Four clients interviewed. (Note: No client records were reviewed due to no CA foster youth currently in care and confidentiality standards relative to examining the records of non-CA foster youth.)
- Exit interview. (Same staff assembled and in attendance.)

FINDINGS:

The following areas meet and/or exceed California group home standards; are adequately comparable or are otherwise allowable with waivers:

- Buildings and grounds: Sufficient, clean, safe, sanitary and in good repair.
- Student bedrooms, bathrooms, all other living space as well as furnishings and supplies deemed adequate and appropriate for the population served.
- Exterior grounds and recreational amenities and space deemed more than adequate.
- Facility's menus and meal plans, cooking and serving amenities and food supply deemed adequate. Each cottage (or living unit) has their own kitchen; meals served and eaten family style.
- The facility has an on-grounds medical and nursing clinic staffed by two full-time nurses. The facility contracts with medical practitioners (physicians, psychiatrists, dentists) who come on grounds on a regular weekly basis and schedule. Whenever an emergent or serious condition warrants, clients are transported off grounds to local community hospital or local emergency agencies and personnel respond on-site. (The facility is in a rural but not remote location which could likely compromise response time.)
- Staff background checks and training requirements (comparable to California's) exist and are required in and by the State of Michigan which the facility substantially complies with.

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FINDINGS:

- All staff who work with the children are trained/certified in SAFE Crisis Management. Only those staff (besides nursing staff) who receive specialized training to handle and dispense medications do so. Medications are safely maintained in locked storage. Other dangerous items and chemicals are adequately locked up and made inaccessible.
- Facility is in good standing with MI Licensing and other oversight authorities.
- Facility agrees to comply with CA incident and restraint reporting requirements on all clients in care (not just CA foster placements.)

CERTIFICATION DECISION:

Approve. No waivers are deemed necessary at this time.

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