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**

CDSS
WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

August 25, 2015

Storm Ridge Ranch Girls – 602300085
2898 North Storm Ridge Lane
Monroe, UT 84754

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

CAPACITY : 24 Female Youth, Ages 12-17

Pursuant to California Family Code, Section 7911 et al., this is official notification that certification for Storm Ridge Ranch Girls, located at 2898 North Storm Ridge Lane, Monroe, UT 84754 is approved through August 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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION
CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| FACILITY NAME: | STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS | | FACILITY NUMBER: | 802300086 |
| ADMINISTRATOR: | MARY ANN LARSEN | | FACILITY TYPE: | 731 |
| ADDRESS: | 2698 N. STORM RIDGE LANE | | TELEPHONE: | (435) 527-3191 |
| CITY: | MONROE | STATE: UT | ZIP CODE: | 84754 |
| CAPACITY: | 24 | CENSUS: 20 | DATE: | 08/12/2015 |
| TYPE OF VISIT: | Case Management | ANNOUNCED | TIME BEGAN: | 10:03 AM |
| MET WITH: | Mary Ann Larsen, Director; Rick Larsen, Ranch Manager; Tracy Knight, R.N., Clinical Assessment Director; Gary Anderson, Therapist; Trina Swalberg, School Principal; Ben Lindgren, Equine Teacher/Therapist. | | TIME COMPLETED: | 05:19 PM |

## NARRATIVE

PURPOSE OF VISIT:

As mandated by California law, this initial on-site inspection performed by the undersigned on August 12, 2015, was made in order to assess and determine Storm Ridge Ranch'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 Utah.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION / APPLICATION HISTORY:

In a letter dated June 23, 2015, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services requested CDSS certification of Storm Ridge Ranch for a difficult to place foster youth (300 W&I Juvenile Court dependent) under their charge. Thereafter, the facility submitted a letter of intent and application for CDSS certification, agreeing to comply with all CA group home licensing standards or submit a waiver to same (where and if applicable.)

FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING:

Storm Ridge Ranch (for Girls) is a 24 bed non-profit therapeutic residential treatment home for girls in central Utah (Sevier County, population just over 20,000.) The home is on 20 rural acres which also includes an accredited private school, a large auto shop, a barn, a tack room, two horse corrals and pasture and barn space for many horses and sheep. Contiguous with the home's property is 95 acres of agricultural land with alfalfa and corn currently growing on it.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez TELEPHONE: (916) 651-0631

LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME: Carol Lancaster TELEPHONE: (916) 838-5751

LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:

Original Signed by Carol Lancaster DATE: 08/25/2015

Carol Lancaster

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:

DATE: 08/25/2015

Mary Ann Larsen

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

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

**FACILITY NAME:** STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS

**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300086
**VISIT DATE:** 08/12/2015

## NARRATIVE

FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING: (Continued)

In addition to providing residential group care, Storm Ridge Ranch touts itself as being a working ranch - - that is, integrating therapeutic treatment, horsemanship and ranch management, academics and vocational training into the experience offered.

The stated mission is to provide all students with a quality education which will enable them to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Their purpose and goal is to provide a safe, structured and caring environment for struggling teens to recover and thrive while discovering self-worth.

*Note: Storm Ridge Ranch has a separate 40-bed facility for boys located 30 miles away; however, only the girls home is being considered for certification at this present time given the need that exists.*

The facility's residential quarters is that of a two-story single family home measuring almost 6000 square feet. Clients are assigned to one of ten upstairs bedrooms. The facility's bedroom sizes vary, most accommodating three to a room although there are a few doubles and one single. The house also has an ample number of bathrooms (providing sinks, toilets and showers), as well as living, study, recreation and storage space. Meals are prepared and served family style from a large newly remodeled kitchen. The home additionally has separate appointed space for therapy (group and individual counseling) as well as office quarters for their full-time nurse and business staff.

The facility is not locked and does not have delayed egress.

Child care staff to client ratio is reported to be the following:

- 1:6 (M-F 6 am to 9 am when school is in session)
- 1:4 (M-F 9 am to 3 pm when school is in session)
- 1:6 (M-F 3 pm to 10 pm when school is in session)
- 1:6 (Saturday, Sunday, holidays, non-school days)
- 1:12 (overnight; awake night staff)

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME:** Marisa Lopez
**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0831

**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster
**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751

**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:** 08/25/2015

Carol Lancaster

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

**FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:** 08/25/2015

Mary Ann Lewis

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

**FACILITY NAME:** STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS

**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300086
**VISIT DATE:** 08/12/2015

## NARRATIVE

FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMING: (Continued)

Typical youth accepted is female, age 12-18, struggling with issues such as: ADD, ADHD, ODD, declining grades in school, disrespect, refusing to follow rules, defiance, anger, stress, poor peer relationships, abandonment issues, emotional issues, depression, anxiety, acting out and substance abuse.

Most placements are private pay made by parents; some with Aid to Adopt funds. At the time of inspection, approximately half were from California. Other states represented included Utah, Texas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Idaho.

Average length of stay is 9 to 12 months; each student ultimately progressing at their own pace. A point/level is utilized to track weekly progress or regression. Levels are zero through five: All new clients begin at zero which represents a standard two week orientation phase; most, are subsequently elevated to level one at the end of this period. Thereafter, level two can be achieved in a minimum of four weeks; level three in a minimum of another six weeks; and level four in a minimum of an additional eight weeks. Level five represents mastery of the program - - a role model/mentor to others and the highest level of responsibility, freedoms and privileges.

Education:

The facility has an on-grounds private school where students participate in on-line schooling via personal computer at their own level and pace. The school meets the requirements established by the AdvancED Northwest Accreditation Commission. The head teacher holds a State of Utah "Professional Educator License" for elementary education (1-8) and special education K-12+ with endorsements in mild / moderate disabilities.

Therapy:

Three licensed therapists are on staff.

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME:** Marisa Lopez
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**DATE:** 08/25/2015

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**FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**

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Mary Ann Larsen

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

**FACILITY NAME:** STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS

**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300089
**VISIT DATE:** 08/12/2015

## NARRATIVE

UT STATE LICENSING INFORMATION:

The facility is licensed in the state of Utah by the Utah Department of Human Services, Office of Licensing for residential treatment for 24 youth female clients ages 12 to 18. Their most recent license is good for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. A copy of the facility's annual licensing reporting from December, 2015 reflected no deficiencies. Contact made with the Utah Licensing evaluator revealed no complaint history; no administrative actions; facility in good standing. The evaluator informed me that the facility is typically visited three times a year: Once for an annual plus two other random visits. The evaluator informed that she has been the evaluator for both the boys and girls homes since each was first licensed by her agency and related information reflecting favorably upon the facilities.

FIRE CLEARANCE:

Records obtained reflect that an annual fire inspection was most recently conducted on May 12, 2015 by the Chief of the City of Elsinore Fire Department, 30 East Main Street, Elsinore, UT 84727.

The facility is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system which was last inspected and approved June 21, 2015.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Records obtained reflect the facility was last inspected by the Central Utah Public Health Department on January 29, 2015. Out of a possible 100, the facility's rating was 97.

Primary kitchen staff is ServSafe certified (good 3/4/2014 through 3/4/2019.)

CRISIS INTERVENTION CERTIFICATION:

The facility has one certified instructor in "Positive Control Systems" (an accredited method) Crisis Intervention. Certified instructor trainer certificate issued August 14, 2014 and good for one year.

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME:** Marisa Lopez **TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631

**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster **TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751

**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:** 08/25/2015

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**FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:** 08/25/2015

Mary Ann Lauer

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

**FACILITY NAME:** STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS

**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300086
**VISIT DATE:** 08/12/2015

## NARRATIVE

SCOPE OF VISIT:

- Entrance interview, review and discussion of application and program material, facility policy and procedures, California Licensing standards and requirements with: Mary Ann Larsen, Director; Rick Larsen, Ranch Manager; Tracy Knight, R.N., Clinical Assessment Director; Gary Anderson, Therapist; Trina Swalberg, School Principal; Ben Lindgren, Equine Teacher/Therapist.
- Buildings and grounds tour.
- Participation in an outing to a nearby livestock auction yard where both some male and female clients from Storm Ridge Ranch work and gain vocational experience: The girls work in a small adjoining restaurant cooking, preparing food and providing meal service to ranchers and other auction goers. The boys, while on horseback, herd and load livestock into various pens and chutes throughout the auction process.
- Observation of the facility's on grounds school and students during classroom time.
- Observation of clients being provided with and participating in equine activities (bridling a horse; mounting; riding lessons.)
- Exit interview.

Note: No client records were reviewed due to no CA foster youth currently in care (confidentiality issues.)

FINDINGS:

- Buildings and grounds: Sufficient, clean, safe, sanitary and in good repair.
- Student bedrooms are of adequate space and furnishings. Students are permitted to personalize their bedroom space. Remainder of facility offers plenty of educational/study, programming, recreating and storage space.
- The home maintains a supply of food that exceeds minimum standards; the food is stored properly and labeled. Menu is posted and meets requirements. (Facility participates in the Federal School Lunch Program.) Adequate, modern kitchen appliances, cooking, serving equipment evident.
- Student's health, medication and dental needs are met and/or coordinated through a full-time licensed nurse employed at the facility. Outside health care needs are provided by local physicians, health practitioners, hospitals and dentists.
- Medications are adequately stored, locked and record keeping and dispensing methods meet standards. Facility maintains more than one fully stocked first aid kit.

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**DATE:** 08/25/2015

Mary Ann Larsen

# FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

**FACILITY NAME:** STORM RIDGE RANCH GIRLS

**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300086
**VISIT DATE:** 08/12/2015

## NARRATIVE

FINDINGS: (Continued)

- Staff undergo and meet background checks required under Utah law and licensing regulations which are equivalent or comparable to California's standards. Records of same are adequately maintained.
- Staff are trained/certified in Positive Control Systems crisis intervention - - a nationally accredited method; facility has a certified trainer who trains the other staff.
- Facility is in good standing with Utah Licensing.

CERTIFICATION DECISION:

Approve.

Storm Ridge Ranch offers residential care and treatment in a ranch-type setting where opportunities probably never offered or experienced before abound: Beautiful, rural geographical country setting; warm, family-like environment, home and staff; plenty of outdoor leisure and recreational opportunities; small enough to provide good individual care, treatment and education.

Provided client mental health needs are not too high and they like animals and are not adverse or overly resistant to learning and doing while living on a ranch, a favorable and memorable experience and outcome can be had.

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**DATE:** 08/25/2015

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Mary Ann La