



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT
5/24/2019

DVN
000174378

FACILITY NAME

CORNERSTONE CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING

FACILITY ADDRESS

3901 RUSSELL BLVD

CITY

ST LOUIS

ZIP CODE

63110-3709

PHONE NUMBER

(314) 865-5244

COUNTY

ST LOUIS CITY

ASSIGNED SPECIALIST

WALLACE, SHALINDA

RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)

VIOLATION(S)

19 CSR 30-62.102 (1)(G)

Caregivers, other personnel or volunteers shall not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the premises. These individuals shall not be in a state of impaired ability due to use of medication while on the premises.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

The allegation is that an employee is drunk while providing care for children in the center.

19 CSR 30-62.102 (1)(G) which states, "Caregivers, other personnel or volunteers shall not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the premises. These individuals shall not be in a state of impaired ability due to use of medication while on the premises," was violated.

This rule was violated in that several staff member smelled alcohol on Ms. Danielle (Dani) Fee on more than one occasion. It was also reported during an investigation conducted by Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Shalinda Wallace, that Ms. Dani was displaying unusual behavior, looking flushed in the face, and having red eyes while at work. According to Ms. Jeanette Johnson, she reported unusual behavior from Ms. Dani that consisted of frequent trips to the downstairs closet in the second building known as Jack's House. Ms. Jeanette stated that she went downstairs and found a wine bottle less than half full and a beer bottle hidden in a blue storage tub in the closet. She also reported the following day that specific wine bottle had been replaced with a full wine bottle and another beer.

Ms. Wendy Robinson reported smelling alcohol on Ms. Dani and confronted Ms. Dani about it. Ms. Dani denied drinking on the job and said that the smell was mouthwash. Ms. Wendy also reported on one occasion that Ms. Dani appeared to be intoxicated and could not hold her head up or control her eyes.

Ms. Talisha Franklin reported that she had concerns of Ms. Dani drinking on the job due to some odd behavior that she was exhibiting that consisted of inappropriate comments being made and glossy eyes.

Per Mr. Jerry Ehrlich, Talisha franklin, Wendy Robinson, and Jeanette Johnson all reported concerns regarding Ms. Dani smelling and/or drinking alcohol on the job. The Director Antoinette Jackson also reported smelling Alcohol on Ms. Dani. Mr. Jerry stated that Ms. Dani was suspended May 23, 2019 through June 2, 2019 due to misconduct that she displayed at two fundraiser events referred to as a Celebration for Children. One of the fundraiser events was held in 2017 and it was reported that Ms. Dani had drank too much. Ms. Dani was reprimanded for excessive drinking at the 2017 Celebration for Children event. Ms. Dani agreed that a similar occurrence would not happen again. The second fundraiser event was held in April 2019 and it was reported that Ms. Dani had also drank too much alcohol, stumbled, had slurred words, and difficulty walking. On June 25, 2019, Executive Director Jerry Ehrlich emailed CCFS Wallace and reported that Ms. Dani had been terminated due to reports of her smelling like alcohol and exhibiting some confusing behaviors on June 18, 2019 Ms. Dani was first suspended from June 19, 2019 through June 21, 219, until the board had the opportunity to consult with their attorney regarding terminating Ms. Dani's employment.

Per the Director Antoinette Jackson, she smelled alcohol on Ms. Dani around 1:30pm towards the end of her shift. Ms. Dani's shift started at 6:30am on May 21, 2019. It was also reported by several staff that Ms. Dani smelled like alcohol and that her behavior was odd. Other things that were reported was that Ms. Dani's complexion appeared to be flushed and that she was

moving more quickly through her actions. It was also reported that Ms. Dani would frequently go to the basement in the second building which was also odd.

Based on the information gathered during the investigation with the above staff, this complaint will be substantiated.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding alcohol or illegal drugs. The facility must provide the Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.	Yes	8/9/2019

CORRECTIVE MEASURE	COMPLETED (Y/N)	COMPLETED DATE
The facility shall conduct a staff meeting to review the center's policies and all licensing rules and regulations regarding immediately reporting safety concerns, which includes but is not limited to suspected alcohol or drugs on the premises . The facility must provide the Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) with a statement, signed by all staff (paid employees or unpaid volunteers), to indicate they understand and agree to follow those rules and regulations.	Yes	8/9/2019

DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
SUBSTANTIATED	7/31/2019

APPROVING SUPERVISOR
KOCH, DENISE ELAYNE