MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES
SECTION FOR CHILD CARE REGULATION

SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINT OF STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS

DATE OF REPORT: 6.8.15

FACILITY TYPE
☐ HOME
☒ GROUP HOME/CENTER
☐ INSPECTED
☐ UNLICENSED MORE THAN FOUR

FACILITY NAME	FACILITY NUMBER
St. Philips United Church of Christ	000271638

STREET ADDRESS: 10708 Lavinia Dr.

CITY	ZIP CODE	PHONE	FACILITY COUNTY
St. Louis	63123	314-842-2114	St. Louis

REPORTER: ☐ NAMED ☐ WITHHELD BY REQUEST ☐ ANONYMOUS

REPORT MADE: ☐ IN PERSON ☒ PHONE ☐ WRITTEN

REPORTER NAME	REPORTER PHONE
Christina Schneider	314-605-0673

REPORTER ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)

RECEIVED BY	ASSIGNED TO	SUPERVISOR
Monica Kemezys	Rhonda Delmain	Beverly Dyson

ALLEGATION(S) OF STATUTE/RULE(S) VIOLATION(S) Attach pages as needed.

See attached

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION Attach pages as needed.

See attached

DISPOSITION: SUBSTANTIATED List statute number or rule number(s) of substantiated violation(s).

See attached

REQUIRED CORRECTIONS AND DEADLINES Attach pages as needed.

See attached

DISPOSITION DATE	CHILD CARE SPECIALIST SIGNATURE	DATE	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE	DATE
08-11-15	Rhonda Delmain	8-5-15 ~~7.22.15~~	Beverly Dyson	08-11-15

St. Philips United Church of Christ
10708 Lavinia Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63123
314-842-2114
DVN: 000271638

Allegations

On June 8, 2015, caller reported that Molly Sweeney used inappropriate discipline with Child A.

Summary of Investigation

On June 8, 2015, Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Rhonda Delmain made an unannounced inspection to the facility. CCFS Delmain began the investigation by conducting staff interviews.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Jaime Bolte, staff member. Ms Jaime provided the following information:

- She heard staff member, Jacqueline Fetcher, say that she saw Molly Sweeney grab Child B by his arm.
- She talked to the director, Megan Dowding, and they watched the surveillance video.
- She and Ms. Megan saw Molly Sweeney put Child B in his chair forcibly in the cafeteria in the video recording.
- Ms. Jacqueline and Ms. Julie were both present in the cafeteria and observed the incident.
- Ms. Jacqueline told Ms. Jamie that Molly Sweeney also grabbed Child B by the arm in the church auditorium, but there is no surveillance video in the church auditorium.
- Ms. Julie told Ms. Jamie that she lied to Ms. Megan, because she did not want to get in the middle of the situation.
- Another staff member told Ms. Jamie that Molly Sweeney shook Child A on May 2, 2015.
- Ms. Jamie stated both incidents with Child B occurred on May 4, 2015.
- Molly Sweeney has worked at the facility for three weeks.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Julie Italiano, staff member. Ms Julie provided the following information:

- She remembers Molly Sweeney getting frustrated with Child B.
- All the classrooms were in the church auditorium watching a movie, and Molly Sweeney took a couple children out to the foyer.
- Child B ran back into the sanctuary, and you could tell Molly Sweeney was frustrated by the look on her face.
- From where she was sitting, it looked like Molly Sweeney picked Child B up under his arms and carried him back out to the foyer.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Jacqueline Fetcher, staff member. Ms Jacqueline provided the following information:

- She did not like the way Molly Sweeney would talk to the children.
- Molly Sweeney would yell in the children's face, telling them that they needed to listen.
- Last week, Molly Sweeney yanked Child B up kind of hard.
- They were in the church auditorium watching a movie, and Child B was running around the auditorium.
- She pulled him up once under his arm and once by his forearm.
- Ms. Jacqueline went to tell Ms. Megan after the movie was over that she had some concerns about Molly Sweeney.
- She has also seen Molly Sweeney scooped up children and slam them in chairs in the cafeteria. It is too rough for the children.
- Molly Sweeney started working at the facility on May 10th or 11th.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Joshua Boyd, staff member. Mr. Joshua provided the following information:

- He has had some concerns with Molly Sweeney's behavior towards the children.
- Molly Sweeney would get angry with the children very easily.
- She was not patient with the children.
- She became overly aggravated, yelled at the children, and handled them too roughly.
- At the movie, Molly Sweeney was sitting in the front row with her class.
- Her class became restless after 30 minutes, because they were too young to pay attention for very long.
- Molly Sweeney yelled at the children to "sit back down."
- She left with Child B for a while, but he kept running back in the auditorium.
- This incident occurred on Thursday, June 4, 2015.
- Mr. Joshua has also seen Molly Sweeney get harsh with Child B in the cafeteria, because he would sit in the wrong chair.
- Molly Sweeney would yell in his face, "You will not get up."
- Mr. Joshua told Ms. Megan about his concerns with Molly Sweeney.
- Ms. Megan brought Molly Sweeney into the office and talked to her for a while.
- Ms. Megan decided to move Molly Sweeney to the four year old class.
- Mr. Joshua did not hear anything about Molly Sweeney shaking Child A.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Kayla Boonma, staff member. Ms. Kayla provided the following information:

- She and Molly Sweeney work in the two year old classroom.
- She has worked with Molly Sweeney most of the time.
- She has seen Molly Sweeney be verbally and physically rough with the children.
- Molly Sweeney yells at the children, is easily frustrated, and is too rough with the children.
- Ms. Kayla has told Ms. Megan about Molly Sweeney not doing her job, but Ms. Megan just brushed it off.
- She and Sara Youchoff, staff member, were in the room when Molly Sweeney shook Child A.
- Child A shook a box and spilled its contents all over the floor.
- Molly Sweeney came up to Child A, grabbed him, and gave him a shake.
- Ms. Kayla saw Child A's head move when he was shaken by Molly Sweeney.
- The shaking was not appropriate.
- Ms. Sara told Ms. Megan about the incident, and Ms. Megan made Molly Sweeney watch the video of the incident.
- Molly Sweeney told Ms. Kayla that she watched the video, and it made her feel like a monster.
- Ms. Megan did not ask Ms. Kayla about the incident, and Ms. Megan told Ms. Sara to just "brush it off."
- Ms. Kayla also observed the incident with Child B.
- Ms. Kayla was in the room cleaning while the class was in the auditorium watching a movie.
- Ms. Kayla went to the auditorium to check on the class.
- She saw Molly Sweeney grab Child B by one arm and pick him up to her hip.
- Ms. Kayla thought there was a better way to have handled the situation.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Sara Youchoff, staff member. Ms. Sara provided the following information:

- She works in the two year old room with Ms. Kayla and Molly Sweeney.
- She had concerns with how Molly Sweeney interacted with the children.
- She saw the incident between Molly Sweeney and Child A.
- Ms. Sara was sitting at a table with children, and they were cleaning up their paint project.
- Child A was at a table with a toy that had just got cleaned up.

- Child A grabbed the box by the handle and threw the box in the air, spilling the contents.
- Ms. Sara called Child A's name three times, but he did not respond.
- Molly Sweeney got up, grabbed Child A's arms, and spun him around toward her.
- Molly Sweeney said to Child A, "Don't you hear Ms. Sara calling your name?"
- Ms. Sara said she was "a little taken back" by the incident.
- Ms. Sara asked Ms. Kayla what she should do about the incident, and Ms. Kayla told her to go tell Ms. Megan.
- Ms. Sara told Ms. Cherish, Assistant Director. Ms. Cherish said she would let Ms. Megan know about the incident.
- Ms. Sara said she had not worked in the two year old classroom for very long, but she could see that Molly Sweeney was easily frustrated by the children.
- Ms. Sara stated that Molly Sweeney was not necessarily yelling or loud when she talked to the children, but Molly Sweeney's voice is stern and angry.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Cherish Rauch, Assistant Director. Ms. Cherish provided the following information:

- She did not observe any of the incidents, and she only knows what she has been told.
- Ms. Sara came to her and said that Molly Sweeney aggressively put Child B in his chair.
- Ms. Cherish talked to Molly Sweeney about the incident, and Molly Sweeney was shocked at how she looked on the video.
- Ms. Cherish explained to Molly that this is not how to handle a frustrating situation.
- Molly Sweeney stated she was not aware of how to discipline a two year old child, and Ms. Cherish responded that the facility does not discipline the children.
- Ms. Cherish explained that Molly Sweeney should talk to the children about the situation and redirect them.
- Molly Sweeney appeared to be embarrassed, upset, and apologetic about the situation.
- Ms. Cherish spoke to Ms. Megan about the incident.
- Ms. Cherish stated the conversation about the incident spread like wildfire around the center, and the staff made it out to be worse than it was.
- Mr. Joshua came to Ms. Cherish about Molly Sweeney's tone with the children. He said her tone made him uncomfortable.
- Ms. Cherish was not clear on what exactly happened during the movie.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain interviewed Megan Dowding, Director. Ms. Megan provided the following information:

- She did not observe any of the incidents, but she watched them on the video.
- Child A had spilled toys in the station where he was sitting.
- Molly Sweeney yelled at Child A twice.
- Ms. Megan and Molly Sweeney watched the incident on film.
- Molly Sweeney stated that it made her feel like a monster.
- Molly Sweeney said she felt like a monster when she watched herself in the video with Child A.
- Ms. Megan stated that Molly Sweeney did not shake Child A.
- Ms. Megan could not tell if Molly Sweeney had her hand on Child A's arm.
- Ms. Megan did not contact Child A's parents regarding the incident.
- Ms. Megan did not write a report regarding the incident, because Molly Sweeney did not leave marks on Child A.
- In regards to Child B, Molly Sweeney did pick him up and put him in his chair.
- It was not an appropriate way to put him in his chair. It was not forceful, but Molly Sweeney was clearly frustrated.

- When Molly Sweeney told Ms. Megan that she was overwhelmed when she picked up Child B and put him in his chair.
- In regards to the movie incident, Ms. Megan stated she talked to some staff members, and the staff said they would have intervened if they thought Molly Sweeney's behavior was inappropriate.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain observed the video of the incident between Molly Sweeny and Child A. The video revealed the following information:

- Ms. Kayla, Ms. Sara, and Molly Sweeney were in the room with the children.
- Ms. Kayla was taking children to the bathroom, Ms. Sara was sitting at a table with some children, and Molly Sweeney was walking around the room.
- Child A was sitting at the red table which was in front of the table where Ms. Sara was sitting.
- He picked up a box and spilled the contents on the floor.
- Molly Sweeney came over to Child A and sat in the chair beside him.
- Molly Sweeney grabbed Child A by the arm and spun him around towards Ms. Sara.
- Child A began to cry.

On June 8, 2015, CCFS Delmain observed the video of the incident between Molly Sweeny and Child B. The video revealed the following information:

- Ms. Sara, Ms. Julie, and Molly Sweeney were in the cafeteria with their classes.
- Child B runs around the room, and Molly Sweeney chases him.
- Molly Sweeney scoops up Child B, carries him to his chair, and drops him in his chair.

Statute/ Rule(s) Violated

Based on interviews conducted during the investigation, this report is being substantiated. This licensing rule violation is based on interviews with Megan Dowding, Director, Cherish Rausch, Assistant Director, and staff members, Jamie Bolte, Julie Italiano, Jacqueline Fetcher, Joshua Boyd, Kayla Boonma, and Sara Youchoff. This licensing rule violation is also based on observation of the video recording of the incidents between Molly Sweeney and Child A, and Molly Sweeney and Child B. The following licensing rules were violated:

19 CSR 30-62.182 (1) (C) 3. and 8. which state, "3) Only constructive, age-appropriate methods of discipline shall be used to help children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions. 8) No discipline technique which is humiliating, threatening or frightening to children shall be used. Children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity."

Corrections

1. Molly Sweeney's employment with the facility ended on June 11, 2015.

Verification of corrections will be filed in the public record as they occur and/or are verified.

08-11-15