

August 28, 2023

Shannon Amundson, Executive Director
Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing Residential Treatment Programs
407 130th Avenue South
Onamia, MN 56359

RE: Certification of the Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program at Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing Under Minnesota Rule Chapter 2955

Dear Ms. Amundson,

The biennial inspection occurred at Nexus-Mill Lacs Family Healing from July 10 to August 9, using Minnesota Rules, Chapter 2955, governing Minnesota juvenile residential sex offender programs.

This inspection visit included a physical plant tour, including the residents' living areas, bedrooms, and bathrooms. The inspection also included discussions with the administration, staff members, and residents, reviewing staff personnel and training files and resident files, daily logs, schedules, and other pertinent documentation. This inspector observed a clinical consultation session and a therapeutic group with some of the juveniles in the program.

Rule out of Compliance

1. Rule Requirement:

2955.0100 STANDARDS FOR SEX OFFENDER ADMISSION AND ASSESSMENT Subp. 1 Admission procedure and new client intake assessment required. A written admission procedure must be established that includes the determination of the appropriateness of the client by reviewing the client's condition and need for treatment, the treatment services offered by the program, and other available resources. This procedure must be coordinated with the external, nonclinical conditions required by the legal, correctional, and administrative systems within which the program operates. An intake assessment process must also be established that determines the client's functioning and treatment needs. All clients admitted to a residential juvenile sex offender treatment program must have a written intake assessment completed within the first 30 days of admission to the program.

Inspection Findings: A random sample of resident intake assessments was taken and reviewed during this inspection. The sample review showed that some intake assessments are completed outside the required 30-day time frame without a documented explanation.

Corrective Action: Develop a process to ensure that intake assessments are complete within 30 days of admission per this rule part. Document the reason if the assessment is completed outside of the allotted timeline.

Must Respond By: October 31, 2023

Rules Compliances with Concerns

2. Rule Requirement

2955.0090 STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION. Subp. 4 Qualifications for sex offender therapist. In addition to the requirements in subpart 1, a sex offender therapist must meet the criteria in items A to C. A. A sex offender therapist must be licensed as a psychologist under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.907; a psychological practitioner under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.908; an independent clinical social worker under Minnesota Statutes, section 148B.21; a marriage and family therapist under Minnesota Statutes, sections 148B.29 to 148B.39; a physician under Minnesota Statutes, section 147.02, and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or eligible for board certification in psychiatry; or a registered nurse under Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.171 to 148.285, and certified as a clinical specialist in juvenile psychiatric and mental health nursing by the American Nurses Association. B. A sex offender therapist must have experience and proficiency in the following areas: (1) 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the provision of individual and group psychotherapy to individuals in one of the following settings: corrections, chemical dependency, mental health, developmental disabilities, social work, or victim services; (2) 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the provision of direct therapy services to sex offenders; (3) sex offender assessment; and (4) case management, including treatment planning, general knowledge of social services and appropriate referrals, and recordkeeping, mandatory reporting requirements, and confidentiality rules and regulations that apply to juvenile sex offender clients. C. A sex offender therapist must have training in the following areas or subjects: (1) 30 hours in child or adolescent development; (2) 16 hours in the treatment of cognitive distortions, thinking errors, and criminal thinking; (3) 16 hours in behavioral therapies for sex offenders; (4) 16 hours in relapse prevention; (5) 16 hours in human sexuality; (6) 16 hours in family systems; (7) 12 hours in crisis intervention; (8) 12 hours in the policies and procedures of the Minnesota criminal justice system; and (9) 12 hours in substance abuse treatment. Persons who do not have the training required in this part shall have one year from their date of hire to complete the training.

Inspection Findings: A random sample of staff personnel files was taken and reviewed during this inspection. The sample review showed that one of the staff did not have the required amount of training in the topic of substance abuse at the time of the review. Before the inspection concluded, the staff member completed the necessary training per this rule part.

Corrective Action: No additional action is needed, as the administration addressed the issue, and the employee took the required training before the inspection concluded.

Must Respond By: Not Applicable

The facility's physical plant was clean, and the juveniles and staff interviewed stated that it was a great facility to work at and receive treatment. The residents interviewed positively discussed staff and the program accommodations. We appreciate the transparency of the administration and staff; they were professional and courteous during the visit.

Based on the findings of this review, the residential sex offender program at Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing is certified to operate from September 1, 2023, until August 31, 2025, under the conditions and requirements presented in this report. The facility will remain on biennial inspections.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this report or certification concerns at 612-247-4781.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Bizzotto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Bizzotto".

Lauren Bizzotto
Facility Detention Inspector
Inspection & Enforcement Unit

cc. Paula Minske, Vice President of Operations
Shannon Amundson, Executive Director
Nicholas DeChene, Sex Offender Program Clinical Supervisor
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