

Division of Health Service Regulation

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: MHL0601227	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING: _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 07/02/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER MERANCAS COTTAGE		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 6750 SAINT PETERS LANE, SUITE 300 MATTHEWS, NC 28105		
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V 000	<p>INITIAL COMMENTS</p> <p>An annual survey was completed on 7-2-25. Deficiencies were cited.</p> <p>This facility is licensed for the following service category: 10A NCAC 27G .1900 Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for Children and Adolescents.</p> <p>This facility is licensed for 6 and currently has a census of 4. The survey sample consisted of audits of 3 current clients.</p>	V 000		
V 110	<p>27G .0204 Training/Supervision Paraprofessionals</p> <p>10A NCAC 27G .0204 COMPETENCIES AND SUPERVISION OF PARAPROFESSIONALS</p> <p>(a) There shall be no privileging requirements for paraprofessionals.</p> <p>(b) Paraprofessionals shall be supervised by an associate professional or by a qualified professional as specified in Rule .0104 of this Subchapter.</p> <p>(c) Paraprofessionals shall demonstrate knowledge, skills and abilities required by the population served.</p> <p>(d) At such time as a competency-based employment system is established by rulemaking, then qualified professionals and associate professionals shall demonstrate competence.</p> <p>(e) Competence shall be demonstrated by exhibiting core skills including:</p> <p>(1) technical knowledge;</p> <p>(2) cultural awareness;</p> <p>(3) analytical skills;</p> <p>(4) decision-making;</p> <p>(5) interpersonal skills;</p> <p>(6) communication skills; and</p> <p>(7) clinical skills.</p>	V 110		

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LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

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V 110	<p>Continued From page 1</p> <p>(f) The governing body for each facility shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the initiation of the individualized supervision plan upon hiring each paraprofessional.</p> <p>This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on interviews and record reviews Staff #1 failed to demonstrate knowledge, skills and ability required by the population served. The findings are:</p> <p>Review on 7-1-25 of the North Carolina Incident Response Improvement System (IRIS) revealed: -Verbal abuse: Scaring, berating, belittling threatening, yelling, cursing, making fun of, taunting, name calling, etc. -Any allegation of abuse is a level II incident.</p> <p>Review on 6-18-25 of facility incident reports revealed: -Incident dated 4-22-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #1 revealed: "The client was saying rude remarks about fellow staff member [Staff #1] while she was getting snacks for him and his peers. The staff heard these remarks while she was in the kitchen. She then confronted the client about the comments that he was making about her. The client then said that the night staff came into the cottage with an attitude; each time, he said he would point to her, indicating that he was talking particularly about her. She then became upset and yelled at the client. Upon standing there and witnessing this, staff member [Staff #2] stepped in between them</p>	V 110		

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V 110	<p>Continued From page 2</p> <p>and started to move the client away. The staff moved the client away because he became agitated due to being yelled at. The staff walked the client into his room so that he could process his thoughts and actions. The client kept trying to open the kitchen door by kicking and punching it to get to her. He stated that he only wanted to talk, but his body language showed that he tried to assault her. The staff closed the kitchen door and switched her out with another staff member. The client would go into his bedroom, asking if she would return that night. He stated that he had plans to deal with her and that if the supervisor were to get involved, he would have plans for his as well."</p> <p>-Incident report dated 6-9-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #2 revealed: The client was told to stop running around the cottage, and the client listened. However, upon doing so, a female staff (Staff #1) member became agitated by his behavior and some rude comments he was making towards her. The staff partner (Staff #2) attempted to de-escalate the situation and listen to both parties. The yelling became louder with each moment. Upon the client moving closer towards the female staff member, the other staff member drove him away. The client stated that he had no intentions of using physical force against her, and the staff then proceeded to hear the client out as the female staff member was instructed to leave the cottage. The client then began to pace around the cottage and yell frantically. The staff then allowed the client to make a phone call to the staff supervisor and his close contacts. He was able to calm himself as the staff spoke to him and reassured him that they were there for him and to help with any problems he had. The client was receptive, but feels like he is being pushed to the edge by certain people who don ' t</p>	V 110		

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V 110	<p>Continued From page 3</p> <p>respect him. The staff listened to his concerns and communicated with him that they would work through the issue together."</p> <p>Review on 6-27-25 of coaching note for Staff #1 revealed: -"On June 16, 2025, the supervisor held a one-on-one meeting with staff member [Staff #1] to address concerns regarding her interactions with both staff and clients. This meeting followed previous discussions and coaching sessions related to an incident that occurred on June 6. During the meeting, the supervisor provided a supportive space for [Staff #1] to voice her concerns and actively collaborated with her to explore and develop practical solutions aimed at resolving the issue."</p> <p>Interview on 6-17-25 and 6-30-25 with Client #1 revealed: -"[Facility] will hire anybody. The attitude, the way she yells, the things she do." -Staff #1 was "yelling and cursing" at him. -"I heard her cursing [Staff #2] out." -Staff #1 has done this more than once and with different clients. -Staff #1 has a "nasty attitude." -Staff #2 has stopped cursing "for now."</p> <p>Interview on 6-17-25 and 6-30-25 with Client #2 revealed: -He has not heard Staff #1 yelling or cursing at any client since the incident with him. -He just "kinda rolled with it" and it had not upset him.</p> <p>Interview on 6-30-25 with Client #3 revealed: -He has heard Staff #1 yell and curse, but can't remember what she said or when it was.</p>	V 110		

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V 110	<p>Continued From page 4</p> <p>Interview on 6-17-25 with Client #4 revealed: -Staff #1 "yells and curses at us." -He thinks she gets upset easily.</p> <p>Interview on 6-25-25 with Staff #2 revealed: -Staff #1 has cursed at the clients and he has stepped in to separate them. -Staff #1 has cursed at him also. -Staff #1's behaviors seems to be better now, "I think [Program Supervisor] had talked to her."</p> <p>Interview on 6-26-25 and 7-1-25 with Staff #1 revealed: -She does not engage with the clients going back and forth. -"When the clients are escalating it is usually because they don't like my approach." -"I don't think they understand...I would never go back and forth with the clients." -"I have been pushing for mediation, like if there is anything with a certain client." -In both of the documented incidents she was trying to stop horseplaying. -"If a client doesn't want to take accountability, things can and do escalate." -The entire cottage had a meeting and talked about how to be safe when a client is escalating, how to get them back to base line, and how to manage staff mental health. -She and her supervisor met and discussed what could have been done differently. -She does feel like this helped her.</p> <p>Interview on 6-26-25 with the Program Supervisor revealed: -He gave Staff #1 extra coaching. -He suggested extra training. -"She (Staff #1) explained to me that there was only so much disrespect she can take from a client."</p>	V 110		

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V 110	Continued From page 5 -Staff #1 hadn't wanted Staff #2 to intervene in the incidents. -Staff #1 told him that he wasn't being supportive as a supervisor. -By the second coaching Staff #1 did understand the issues but still felt like the support wasn't there. -"I believe I documented these coaching's. Interview on 7-2-25 with the Operations Director revealed: -They would ensure that all supervisors were documenting and coaching and supervision that they were giving staff.	V 110		
V 132	G.S. 131E-256(G) HCPR-Notification, Allegations, & Protection G.S. §131E-256 HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL REGISTRY (g) Health care facilities shall ensure that the Department is notified of all allegations against health care personnel, including injuries of unknown source, which appear to be related to any act listed in subdivision (a)(1) of this section. (which includes: a. Neglect or abuse of a resident in a healthcare facility or a person to whom home care services as defined by G.S. 131E-136 or hospice services as defined by G.S. 131E-201 are being provided. b. Misappropriation of the property of a resident in a health care facility, as defined in subsection (b) of this section including places where home care services as defined by G.S. 131E-136 or hospice services as defined by G.S. 131E-201 are being provided. c. Misappropriation of the property of a healthcare facility. d. Diversion of drugs belonging to a health care	V 132		

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V 132	<p>Continued From page 6</p> <p>facility or to a patient or client.</p> <p>e. Fraud against a health care facility or against a patient or client for whom the employee is providing services).</p> <p>Facilities must have evidence that all alleged acts are investigated and must make every effort to protect residents from harm while the investigation is in progress. The results of all investigations must be reported to the Department within five working days of the initial notification to the Department.</p> <p>This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on record review and interview the facility failed to report all allegations of abuse to the Healthcare Personnel Registry (HPCR) effecting 1 of 2 audited staff (Staff #1). The findings are:</p> <p>Review on 7-1-25 of the North Carolina Incident Response Improvement System (IRIS) revealed: -Verbal abuse: Scaring, berating, belittling threatening, yelling, cursing, making fun of, taunting, name calling, etc. -Any allegation of abuse is a level II incident.</p> <p>Review on 6-18-25 of facility incident reports revealed: -Incident dated 4-22-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #1 revealed: "The client was saying rude remarks about fellow staff member [Staff #1] while she was getting snacks for him and his peers. The staff heard these remarks while she was in the kitchen. She then confronted the client about the comments that he was making about her. The client then said that the night staff came into the cottage with an attitude; each time, he said he would point to her, indicating that he was talking particularly about her. She then became upset and yelled at the</p>	V 132		

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V 132	<p>Continued From page 7</p> <p>client. Upon standing there and witnessing this, staff member [Staff #2] stepped in between them and started to move the client away. The staff moved the client away because he became agitated due to being yelled at. The staff walked the client into his room so that he could process his thoughts and actions. The client kept trying to open the kitchen door by kicking and punching it to get to her. He stated that he only wanted to talk, but his body language showed that he tried to assault her. The staff closed the kitchen door and switched her out with another staff member. The client would go into his bedroom, asking if she would return that night. He stated that he had plans to deal with her and that if the supervisor were to get involved, he would have plans for his as well."</p> <p>-Incident report dated 6-9-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #2 revealed: The client was told to stop running around the cottage, and the client listened. However, upon doing so, a female staff (Staff #1) member became agitated by his behavior and some rude comments he was making towards her. The staff partner (Staff #2) attempted to de-escalate the situation and listen to both parties. The yelling became louder with each moment. Upon the client moving closer towards the female staff member, the other staff member drove him away. The client stated that he had no intentions of using physical force against her, and the staff then proceeded to hear the client out as the female staff member was instructed to leave the cottage. The client then began to pace around the cottage and yell frantically. The staff then allowed the client to make a phone call to the staff supervisor and his close contacts. He was able to calm himself as the staff spoke to him and reassured him that they were there for him and to help with any problems he had. The client was</p>	V 132		

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V 132	Continued From page 8 receptive, but feels like he is being pushed to the edge by certain people who don ' t respect him. The staff listened to his concerns and communicated with him that they would work through the issue together." -Neither incident report was reported to HPCR for Staff #1 yelling at the clients. Interview on 7-2-25 with the Program Director revealed: -They would have to develop a way to make sure all incidents reports were documented correctly and all allegations reported.	V 132		
V 367	27G .0604 Incident Reporting Requirements 10A NCAC 27G .0604 INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CATEGORY A AND B PROVIDERS (a) Category A and B providers shall report all level II incidents, except deaths, that occur during the provision of billable services or while the consumer is on the providers premises or level III incidents and level II deaths involving the clients to whom the provider rendered any service within 90 days prior to the incident to the LME responsible for the catchment area where services are provided within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident. The report shall be submitted on a form provided by the Secretary. The report may be submitted via mail, in person, facsimile or encrypted electronic means. The report shall include the following information: (1) reporting provider contact and identification information; (2) client identification information; (3) type of incident; (4) description of incident;	V 367		

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V 367	Continued From page 9 (5) status of the effort to determine the cause of the incident; and (6) other individuals or authorities notified or responding. (b) Category A and B providers shall explain any missing or incomplete information. The provider shall submit an updated report to all required report recipients by the end of the next business day whenever: (1) the provider has reason to believe that information provided in the report may be erroneous, misleading or otherwise unreliable; or (2) the provider obtains information required on the incident form that was previously unavailable. (c) Category A and B providers shall submit, upon request by the LME, other information obtained regarding the incident, including: (1) hospital records including confidential information; (2) reports by other authorities; and (3) the provider's response to the incident. (d) Category A and B providers shall send a copy of all level III incident reports to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident. Category A providers shall send a copy of all level III incidents involving a client death to the Division of Health Service Regulation within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident. In cases of client death within seven days of use of seclusion or restraint, the provider shall report the death immediately, as required by 10A NCAC 26C .0300 and 10A NCAC 27E .0104(e)(18). (e) Category A and B providers shall send a report quarterly to the LME responsible for the catchment area where services are provided. The report shall be submitted on a form provided	V 367		

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V 367	<p>Continued From page 10</p> <p>by the Secretary via electronic means and shall include summary information as follows:</p> <p>(1) medication errors that do not meet the definition of a level II or level III incident;</p> <p>(2) restrictive interventions that do not meet the definition of a level II or level III incident;</p> <p>(3) searches of a client or his living area;</p> <p>(4) seizures of client property or property in the possession of a client;</p> <p>(5) the total number of level II and level III incidents that occurred; and</p> <p>(6) a statement indicating that there have been no reportable incidents whenever no incidents have occurred during the quarter that meet any of the criteria as set forth in Paragraphs (a) and (d) of this Rule and Subparagraphs (1) through (4) of this Paragraph.</p> <p>This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on record reviews and interviews the facility failed to report all level II incident report to the Local Management Entity (LME) within 72 hours of learning about the incident. The findings are:</p> <p>Review on 7-1-25 of the North Carolina Incident Response Improvement System (IRIS) revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Verbal abuse: Scaring, berating, belittling threatening, yelling, cursing, making fun of, taunting, name calling, etc. -Any allegation of abuse is a level II incident. 	V 367		

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V 367	<p>Continued From page 11</p> <p>Review on 6-18-25 of facility incident reports revealed:</p> <p>-Incident dated 4-22-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #1 revealed: "The client was saying rude remarks about fellow staff member [Staff #1] while she was getting snacks for him and his peers. The staff heard these remarks while she was in the kitchen. She then confronted the client about the comments that he was making about her. The client then said that the night staff came into the cottage with an attitude; each time, he said he would point to her, indicating that he was talking particularly about her. She then became upset and yelled at the client. Upon standing there and witnessing this, staff member [Staff #2] stepped in between them and started to move the client away. The staff moved the client away because he became agitated due to being yelled at. The staff walked the client into his room so that he could process his thoughts and actions. The client kept trying to open the kitchen door by kicking and punching it to get to her. He stated that he only wanted to talk, but his body language showed that he tried to assault her. The staff closed the kitchen door and switched her out with another staff member. The client would go into his bedroom, asking if she would return that night. He stated that he had plans to deal with her and that if the supervisor were to get involved, he would have plans for his as well."</p> <p>-Incident report dated 6-9-25 and documented as a level I incident involving Client #2 revealed: The client was told to stop running around the cottage, and the client listened. However, upon doing so, a female staff (Staff #1) member became agitated by his behavior and some rude comments he was making towards her. The staff partner (Staff #2) attempted to de-escalate the situation and listen to both</p>	V 367		

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V 367	Continued From page 12 parties. The yelling became louder with each moment. Upon the client moving closer towards the female staff member, the other staff member drove him away. The client stated that he had no intentions of using physical force against her, and the staff then proceeded to hear the client out as the female staff member was instructed to leave the cottage. The client then began to pace around the cottage and yell frantically. The staff then allowed the client to make a phone call to the staff supervisor and his close contacts. He was able to calm himself as the staff spoke to him and reassured him that they were there for him and to help with any problems he had. The client was receptive, but feels like he is being pushed to the edge by certain people who don ' t respect him. The staff listened to his concerns and communicated with him that they would work through the issue together." Interview on 6-25-25 with the Facility Supervisor revealed: -Staff is responsible for incident reports and usually the Quality Improvement office email the facility and let them know to put it in IRIS. Interview on 7-1-25 with the Operation Director revealed: -The Program Supervisor was supposed to put the incident reports into IRIS.	V 367		
V 736	27G .0303(c) Facility and Grounds Maintenance 10A NCAC 27G .0303 LOCATION AND EXTERIOR REQUIREMENTS (c) Each facility and its grounds shall be maintained in a safe, clean, attractive and orderly manner and shall be kept free from offensive odor.	V 736		

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STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: MHL0601227	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING: _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 07/02/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER MERANCAS COTTAGE		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 6750 SAINT PETERS LANE, SUITE 300 MATTHEWS, NC 28105		
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)	(X5) COMPLETE DATE
V 736	<p>Continued From page 13</p> <p>This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on observation and interview, the facility failed to be maintained in a clean, attractive manner. The findings are:</p> <p>Observation 6-19-25 at approximately 12:00pm revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -1st bedroom: shower stall had mold, sink had blue and brown substances in it. -2nd bedroom: the shower light would not work. -3rd bedroom: Piles of clothes on the floor around the toilet, Toilet has blackened ring around the inside of the toilet, towels on the floor by the bathtub, no shower curtain, dark substance covering the bottom and sides of the bathtub. -Bedroom #6: writing on the cupboard and walls, door is discolored with dark smears. <p>Interview on 6-26-25 with Staff #1 revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It was everyone's responsibility to make sure the facility is clean. <p>Interview on 6-25-25 with Staff #2 revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -"The kids are supposed to keep their room clean but it is staff's responsibility to make sure that it is clean." <p>Interview on 6-26-25 with the facility supervisor revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -"I enforce that to staff (that the facility should be clean). When I come in and see that things need to be tidied up. Sometimes the staff can get overwhelmed with behavior etc.. We got room 5 yesterday (cleaned). Staff are supposed to cleaning. Sometimes I will help also." <p>Interview on 7-2-25 with the Program Director</p>	V 736		

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V 736	Continued From page 14 revealed: -They would need to develop a system to ensure the facility is kept clean.	V 736		