



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

December 9, 2021

Katrina Foley
Orange County Supervisor, Second District
Orange County Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Investigation of Licensed Facilities
20132 Redlands Drive & 20182 Kline Drive

Dear Ms. Foley:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). We share your concern that the incident that occurred on August 26, 2021 is a tragic loss of a young life.

Here at DHCS, we want to acknowledge that people obtaining treatment services in recovery residences and licensed treatment facilities are our community's family members, and that the chronic disease of addiction affects people from all walks of life. People need safe living spaces as they pursue paths to recovery. We support and believe that people with addiction deserve to live in residential communities on their journey to recovery.

At the same time, we hold ourselves responsible for investigating every death thoroughly, and holding facilities accountable for safe practices. Gratitude Lodge notified DHCS of the death of a resident on August 26, 2021. This was promptly investigated and an unannounced site visit occurred on September 8, 2021. The following deficiencies were cited as a result of the investigation:

1. Program failed to refer Decedent to a higher level of care in a timely manner
2. Program did not follow their own policy and procedure regarding documenting resident referrals

The facility responded to the deficiencies, and the corrective actions have been accepted.

In addition, a licensing compliance visit was recently conducted at the 20182 Kline Drive location on August 27, 2021. Deficiencies were cited and have since been cleared by the Department. We will also be conducting additional compliance reviews at both

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locations in the near future. We have initiated a Public Records Act request for you and will be sending you both reports from the closed investigations.

We also hear the frustration regarding the behavior of some of the people living in recovery residences. However, recovery residences are not regulated by any governmental authority. Instead, these homes are viewed as more of a landlord/tenant arrangement, and no licensable treatment services are being performed in them. We aggressively investigate when we learn of recovery residences that are providing unlicensed services. We also post on our website a [list of all facilities](#) that we have determined to be providing unlicensed treatment services and have been sent a notification to cease the unlicensed activity.

Thank you for reaching out to DHCS regarding this matter and feel free to contact us if you have further inquiries.

Sincerely,



Michelle Baass, Director
Department of Health Care Services
Michelle.Baass@dhcs.ca.gov

cc: Dave Min, Senator-37th District
Cottie Petrie-Norris, State Assemblywoman-74th District
Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair-Orange County Homelessness & Mental Health
Services Committee
Jim Wood, Chair-Assembly Committee on Health
Richard Pan, Chair-Senate Committee on Health
Scott Wiener-Select Committee on Mental Health & Addiction