



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
PO BOX 360  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360  
www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor  
SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
Acting Commissioner

In Re Licensure Violation: :  
: :  
BESSIE MAE WOMEN AND : CEASE AND DESIST ORDER  
FAMILY HEALTH CENTER :  
: :  
: :  
: :

TO: Esney Sharpe, Owner  
Bessie Mae Women and Family Health Center  
220 South Harrison Street  
East Orange, NJ 07018  
[esneys@aol.com](mailto:esneys@aol.com)

The Health Care Facilities Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.) (the Act) provides a statutory scheme designed to ensure that all health care facilities are of the highest quality. Pursuant to the Act and N.J.A.C. 8:43E-1.1 et seq. (General Licensure Procedures and Standards Applicable to All Licensed Facilities), the Commissioner of Health is authorized to inspect all health care facilities and to enforce the Manual of Standards for Licensing of Ambulatory Care facilities set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:43A-1.1 et seq.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12, no health care service or health care facility may operate unless it has a license. In addition to possessing a license, an ambulatory care facility must also obtain ambulatory care accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a condition of licensure. N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12(h). See also N.J.A.C. 8:43A-3.12(b).

The Department of Health (Department) has received credible evidence that Bessie Mae Women and Family Health Center (Bessie Mae) has been operating as an ambulatory care facility, as defined by N.J.A.C. 8:43A-1.1(b) and N.J.A.C. 8:43A-1.3. Bessie Mae has been providing gynecological and reproductive health services, as well as preventative care and screenings without a license issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Health. In addition, unlicensed personnel have been providing women's health services at Bessie Mae.

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

Bessie Mae Women and Family Health Center  
Cease and Desist Order  
January 25, 2023  
Page 2

The Department hereby orders Bessie Mae Women and Family Health Center to cease and desist providing services. This enforcement action was taken in accordance with the provisions set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.11 (Cease and Desist Order).

Please be advised that N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.4(a)(1) provides for a penalty of \$1,000 per day for operation of a health care facility without a license.

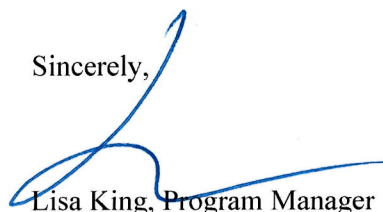
This Cease and Desist Order shall remain in place until the facility is otherwise notified in writing by a representative of the Department.

### **Final Agency Decision**

This Cease and Desist Order shall constitute a Final Agency Decision. As such, pursuant to New Jersey Court Rules 2:2-3 and 2:4-1, you may appeal from this Final Agency Decision within 45 days to the New Jersey Superior Court-Appellate Division, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton, New Jersey.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions concerning the Cease and Desist Order, please contact Lisa King, Office of Program Compliance, at [Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov).

Sincerely,



Lisa King, Program Manager  
Office of Program Compliance  
Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

LK:MT:nj  
DATED: January 25, 2024  
REGULAR AND  
CERTIFIED MAIL:  
E-MAIL: [esneys@aol.com](mailto:esneys@aol.com)  
Control #AX24004