



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 358
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner

In Re Licensure Violation:	:	
	:	
	:	
Lincoln Park Care Center	:	NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF
	:	PENALTIES
(NJ Facility ID# NJ 61409)	:	
	:	
	:	

TO: Howard Wolf, Administrator
Lincoln Park Care Center
499 Pine Brook Road
Lincoln Park, New Jersey 07035
hwolf@lincolnparkcc.com

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Effective immediately, the Department of Health (hereinafter "the Department") is assessing penalties pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.4 upon Lincoln Park Care Center (hereinafter "Lincoln Park" or "the facility") because the facility failed to have the required minimum staffing on 35 days, including one day shift that the facility had only 25% of the required certified nurse aide staff for the facility's 516 residents.

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 Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:39-1.1 et seq.

LICENSURE VIOLATIONS:

Based on a survey conducted by Department staff on August 26, 2024, which is incorporated herein by reference, the facility failed to comply with N.J.S.A. 30:13-18 (P.L. 2020. C. 112). N.J.S.A. 30:13-18 establishes minimum staffing requirements for nursing homes. N.J.S.A. 30:13-18 requires nursing homes to maintain the following minimum direct care staff-to-resident ratios: (1) one certified nurse aide (CNA) to every eight residents for the day shift; (2) one direct care staff member to every 10 residents for the evening shift, provided that no fewer than half of all staff members shall be CNAs, and each staff member shall be signed in to work as a CNA and shall perform CNA duties; and (3) one direct care staff member to every 14 residents for the night shift, provided that each direct care staff member shall sign in to work as a CNA and perform certified nurse aide duties.

During the survey, the Survey staff reviewed the Nurse Staffing Reports completed by the facility for various weeks, which revealed staff-to-resident ratios that did not meet the minimum requirements. The facility was deficient in certified nurse aide staffing 35 of 35 days shifts and 2 of 21 evening shifts. The facility was deficient in total staffing 4 of 28 evening shifts and 1 of 14 overnight shifts. Further, the facility provided less than half of the required certified nurse aide staffing for resident care on 13 day shifts, half on 1 day shift, and, on the July 28, 2024, day shift, the facility provided 16 certified nurse aides for 516 residents, resulting in a ratio of 32.25 residents per certified nurse aide (when at least 64 certified nurse aides should have been on staff). Overall, the facility was deficient on 35 days.

MONETARY PENALTIES:

N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.4(a)8 allows the Department to impose a monetary penalty of \$1,000 per violation for each day noncompliance is found for multiple deficiencies related to patient care or physical plant standards throughout a facility, and/or where such violations represent a direct risk that a patient's physical or mental health will be compromised, or where an actual violation of a resident's or patient's rights is found.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.4(a)8, the penalty assessed for each day on which noncompliance was found is \$1,000 per day. The total penalty assessed for the staffing violations on the August 26, 2024, survey (or the days the facility was not in compliance) is \$35,000 (35 days x \$1,000).

The total amount of this penalty is required to be paid within 30 days of receipt of this letter by certified check or money order made payable to the "Treasurer of the State of New Jersey" and forwarded to Office of Program Compliance, New Jersey Department of Health, P.O. Box 358, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0358, Attention: Lisa King. **On all future correspondence related to this Notice, please refer to Control X24085.**

INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (IDR):

N.J.A.C. 8:43E-2.3 provides facilities the option to challenge factual survey findings by requesting Informal Dispute Resolution with Department representatives. Facilities wishing to challenge only the assessment of penalties are not entitled to IDR review, but such facilities may request a formal hearing at the Office of Administrative Law as set forth herein below. Please note that the facility's rights to IDR and administrative hearings are not mutually exclusive and both may be invoked simultaneously. IDR requests **must be made in writing within ten (10) business days from receipt of this letter** and must state whether the facility opts for a telephone conference or review of facility documentation only. The request must include an original and ten (10) copies of the following:

1. The written survey findings;
2. A list of each specific deficiency the facility is contesting;
3. A specific explanation of why each contested deficiency should be removed;
4. Any relevant supporting documentation; and,
5. A list identifying the individuals who will participate in the IDR.

Any supporting documentation or other papers submitted later than 10 business days prior to the scheduled IDR may not be considered at the discretion of the IDR panel.

Send the above-referenced information to:

Nadine Jackman
Office of Program Compliance
New Jersey Department of Health
P.O. Box 358
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0358

The IDR review will be conducted by professional Department staff who do not participate in the survey process. **Requesting IDR does not delay the imposition of any enforcement remedies.**

If IDR was offered and requested by your facility for the corresponding federal deficiency that was cited at the same survey and your facility requests another IDR for the corresponding State deficiency cited at the same survey and arising from the same set of facts, the Department will either consolidate the IDRs or treat the first IDR decision as binding. The Department does not

offer a second IDR for the same set of disputed facts that were challenged in a prior IDR offered by the Department.

FORMAL HEARING:

The facility is entitled to contest the assessment of penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-13 by requesting a formal hearing at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The facility may request a hearing to challenge any or all of the following: the factual findings and/or the assessed penalties. The facility must advise this Department within 30 days of the date of this letter if it requests an OAL hearing.

Please forward your OAL hearing request to:


Attention: OAL Hearing Requests
Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance, New Jersey Department of Health
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

Corporations are not permitted to represent themselves in OAL proceedings. Therefore, if the facility is owned by a corporation, representation by counsel is required. In the event of an OAL hearing regarding the penalty, the facility is further required to submit a written response to each and every charge as specified in this notice, which shall accompany its written request for a hearing.

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of this notice will render this a final agency decision. The final agency order shall thereafter have the same effect as a judgment of the court. The Department also reserves the right to pursue all other remedies available by law.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Assessment, please contact Nadine Jackman, Office of Program Compliance, at Nadine.Jackman@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Lincoln Park Care Center
Notice of Assessment of Penalties
September 4, 2024
Page 5

LK:JLM:nj
DATE: September 4, 2024
E-MAIL (hwolf@lincolnparkcc.com)
REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Control # X24085