

For Immediate Release

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KDADS Closes Atishwin Institute in Wichita

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities Services (KDADS) has revoked the license of the Atishwin Institute, a Wichita group home and treatment provider for individuals with substance use disorders. The facility, which has 35 beds, is required to close immediately.

Agency staff is assisting about 25 residents to find alternate accommodations.

State law authorizes the agency to use emergency proceedings “... in a situation involving an immediate danger to public health, safety or welfare requiring immediate state agency action” to close such facilities.

On August 19, 2014, agency representatives conducted a site visit and survey of the Atishwin facility. Numerous violations of state regulations were observed, including many major violations that could impact safety and quality-of-care provided to individuals receiving treatment there. In addition, state staff found the licensee had failed to comply with the Alcohol or Other Drug Addiction Treatment Act.

Those violations include improper storage of drugs, treatment being provided by unlicensed staff, unsafe conditions such as disconnected fire alarms, broken mirrors and broken glass, insect and rodent infestations, and other unsanitary conditions. In addition, inspection staff determined employee tuberculosis tests had not been completed, no biohazard waste disposal was available and the facility has no way to maintain controlled medications. There was no evidence of a current fire inspection.

The licensee may request a hearing regarding this closure in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act. A request for a hearing must be filed within 15 days of the service of the notice. Failure to submit a timely request will result in a waiver of the licensee’s right to a hearing and the closure order will become final, revoking the licensee’s order to operate a treatment facility.

The facility is located at 937 S. Bluffview Dr., Wichita, Kansas, 67218.

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The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.