

From:

Greene Valley Fixes 'Minor' Lapses

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Incidents Viewed

By Visiting Officials

Had Jeopardized

Medicaid Funding

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Greene Valley Developmental Center was given a notice earlier this month it could lose its participation in a Medicaid program due to "minor lapses in supervision," according to Tony Troiano, director of communications for the Division of Mental Retardation Services in Nashville.

Troiano said Tuesday that GVDC officials remedied the problems before an involuntary termination notice of April 19 took effect.

Dr. Henry "Bud" Meece, chief officer of GVDC, said this week, "There was no interruption in funding."

A public notice appeared in The Greeneville Sun April 9 that stated, in part: "... Effective April 19, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is canceling the approval of (GVDC), an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded, in Greeneville, Tennessee, to participate in the Medicaid program."

GVDC faced not receiving Medicaid payments for some of its services beginning April 19 unless it remedied the situation, Troiano said.

GVDC did so, he stated.

Troiano wrote in an e-mail to the Sun on Tuesday that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) annually sends a survey team to visit GVDC "as well as all other Intermediate Care Facilities/Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) facilities in the nation."

He stated in the e-mail, "A short time ago a CMS group was at GVDC and while conducting reviews found three incidents of concern."

Troiano in a follow-up phone call said those three incidents were "minor lapses in supervision" and described them as:

* One man drank some mouthwash;

* Another man unlocked his wheelchair in the parking lot and rolled down two feet and hit a curb; and

* A woman chewed a blanket.

Troiano said the notice printed in the April 9 edition of the Sun "alarmed a lot of people," including some who called GVDC.

Upon hearing of the supervisory lapses, according to Troiano's e-mail, CMS "designated Immediate Jeopardy and gave GVDC five days to develop a plan of correction. GVDC completed the plan and CMS approved."

Continued Troiano in his e-mail, "CMS revisited the center last week to assure that the approved plan was implemented. It was, and CMS lifted Immediate Jeopardy. There was no interruption in funding."