



Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities Program

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston

Results in Brief

Why OIG Conducted This Audit

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Audit) audited Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston (Lighthouse) due to the vulnerability of the population served. Lighthouse, a DBMD provider assists people who are blind or visually impaired to be independent members of society, in Houston, Texas. Lighthouse served seven DBMD program participants residing in two assisted living facilities and received a total of \$452,000 through the DBMD program in 2021.

Summary of Review

The audit objective was to determine whether Lighthouse operated and provided residential DBMD services at its assisted living facilities in compliance with applicable contractual requirements, laws, rules, and guidelines. The audit scope covered the conditions during the on-site visits of two assisted living facilities operated by Lighthouse on January 20, 2022, and health and safety related documentation through February 2022.

Management Response

Lighthouse agreed with the audit recommendation and indicated it has implemented corrective actions.

For more information, contact:
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Conclusion

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston (Lighthouse) operated and provided residential Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) program services at its assisted living facilities in compliance with almost all applicable requirements, laws, rules, and guidelines tested.

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Audit) reviewed the conditions of two assisted living facilities operated by Lighthouse during on-site visits to determine whether they provided a safe living environment; were sufficiently secured, modified, clean, and maintained in good repair; and had fire and other hazard detection and safety systems in place. On the day of the visits:

- Both facilities were clean, in good condition, and free of hazards.
- Fire detection and safety equipment and processes were in place at both facilities and equipment appeared operable. However, neither facility had installed carbon monoxide detectors in residents' bedrooms, as required.
- Both facilities appropriately secured and separated medications by resident and maintained complete records, as required.

Recommendations

Lighthouse should ensure carbon monoxide detectors are installed in resident bedrooms.