Agency for Health Care Administration

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED
	AL11965659	A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING _____	07/09/2026

NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER	STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
EMERALD GARDENS INC.	2159 MCMULLEN BOOTH ROAD CLEARWATER, FL 33759

(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)	(X5) COMPLETE DATE
A 000	Initial Comments A complaint investigation (#2026001099) was conducted at Emerald Gardens on . Deficiencies were identified at the time of the survey.	A 000		
A 008 SS=D	429.26( ) FS; 59A-36.006(2) FAC Admissions - Health Assessment 429.26 (5) Each resident must have been examined by a licensed physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse within 60 days before admission to the facility or within 30 days after admission to the facility, except as provided in s. 429.07. The information from the medical examination must be recorded on the practitioner's form or on a form adopted by agency rule. The medical examination form, signed only by the practitioner, must be submitted to the owner or administrator of the facility, who shall use the information contained therein to assist in the determination of the appropriateness of the resident's admission to or continued residency in the facility. The medical examination form may only be used to record the practitioner's direct observation of the patient at the time of examination and must include the patient's medical history. Such form does not guarantee admission to, continued residency in, or the delivery of services at the facility and must be used only as an informative tool to assist in the determination of the appropriateness of the resident's admission to or continued residency in the facility. The medical examination form, reflecting the resident's condition on the date the examination is performed, becomes a permanent part of the facility's record of the resident and must be made available to the agency during inspection or upon	A 008		

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A 008	Continued From page 1 request. An assessment that has been completed through the Comprehensive Assessment and Review for Long-Term Care Services (CARES) Program fulfills the requirements for a medical examination under this subsection and s. 429.07(3)(b)6. (6) Any resident accepted in a facility and placed by the Department of Children and Families must have been examined by medical personnel within 30 days before placement in the facility. The examination must include an assessment of the appropriateness of placement in a facility. The findings of this examination must be recorded on the examination form provided by the agency. The completed form must accompany the resident and be submitted to the facility owner or administrator. Additionally, in the case of a mental health resident, the Department of Children and Families must provide documentation that the individual has been assessed by a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, or [illegible] nurse, or an individual who is supervised by one of these professionals, and determined to be appropriate to reside in an assisted living facility. The documentation must be in the facility within 30 days after the mental health resident has been admitted to the facility. An evaluation completed upon discharge from a state mental hospital meets the requirements of this subsection related to appropriateness for placement as a mental health resident provided that it was completed within 90 days prior to admission to the facility. The Department of Children and Families shall provide to the facility administrator any information about the resident which would help the administrator meet his or her responsibilities under subsection (1). Further, Department of Children and Families personnel	A 008		

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A 008	Continued From page 2 shall explain to the facility operator any special needs of the resident and advise the operator whom to call should problems arise. The Department of Children and Families shall advise and assist the facility administrator when the special needs of residents who are recipients of , , , , require such assistance. 59A-36.006 (2) HEALTH ASSESSMENT. As part of the admission criteria, an individual must undergo a -to- medical examination completed by a health care practitioner as specified in either paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection. (a) A medical examination completed within 60 days before or within 30 days after the individual's admission to a facility pursuant to Section 429.26(5), F.S. The examination must address the following: 1. The physical and mental status of the resident, including the identification of any health-related problems and functional limitations, 2. An evaluation of whether the individual will require supervision or assistance with the activities of daily living, 3. Any nursing or , , services required by the individual, 4. Any special diet required by the individual, 5. A list of current medications prescribed, and whether the individual will require any assistance with the administration of medication, 6. Whether the individual has signs or symptoms of , , , , , , or any other communicable , which are likely to be transmitted to other residents or staff, 7. A statement on the day of the examination that, in the opinion of the examining health care	A 008		

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A 008	Continued From page 3	A 008		

practitioner, the individual's needs can be met in an assisted living facility; and,
8. The date of the examination, and the name, signature, address, telephone number, and license number of the examining health care practitioner.
(b) When a health care practitioner conducts a medical examination, the examination must be recorded on the practitioner's form or on AHCA Form 1823, Resident Health Assessment for Assisted Living Facilities, , , which is incorporated by reference and available online at: http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13531. Faxed or electronic copies of the completed form are acceptable. If AHCA Form 1823 is used, the form must be completed as instructed.
1. If the health care practitioner's form does not include all the examination items on AHCA Form 1823 or if AHCA Form 1823 is not completed fully, then the omitted items may be obtained by the administrator or designee either orally or in writing from the health care practitioner. The missing or omitted information must be obtained and documented in the resident's record within 30 days after the resident's admission to the facility.
2. Omitted or missing information received orally must include the name of the health care practitioner, the name and signature of the administrator or designee recording the information, and the date the information was provided.
(c) Medical examinations of residents placed by the department, by the Department of Children and Families, or by an agency under contract with either department must be conducted within 30 days before placement in the facility and recorded on AHCA Form 1823 described in paragraph (b).
(d) An assessment that has been conducted

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A 008	Continued From page 4 through the Comprehensive, Assessment, Review and Evaluation for Long-Term Care Services (CARES) program may be substituted for the medical examination requirements of Section 429.26, F.S. and this rule. (e) Any orders issued by the health care practitioner conducting the medical examination for medications, nursing services, treatments, , , , or therapeutic diets, may be attached to the health assessment. A health care practitioner may attach a DH Form 1896, Florida Form, for residents who do not wish , , to be administered in the case of or , , . (f) A resident placed in a facility on a temporary emergency basis by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to Section 415.105 or 415.1051, F.S., is exempt from the examination requirements of this subsection for up to 30 days. However, a resident accepted for temporary emergency placement must be entered on the facility's admission and discharge log and counted in the facility census. A facility may not exceed its licensed capacity in order to accept such a resident. A medical examination must be conducted on any temporary emergency placement resident accepted for regular admission. This Statute or Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on record review and interview, the facility failed to maintain an updated and completed Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)1823 assessment form (1823) for one (Resident #2) of two sampled residents. Findings included: A record review for Resident #2, who was	A 008		

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A 008	Continued From page 5 admitted on , revealed Resident #2 was admitted to Hospice on . A review of Resident #2's 1823 which was signed and dated on did not identify Resident #2 was receiving Hospice under Nursing/Treatment/ , , Service Requirements. During an interview on at 2:45 p.m., the Administrator agreed Resident #2 was receiving Hospice services and it was not listed on the 1823. Photographic evidence obtained. Class III	A 008		
A 168 SS=D	429.24(3)(a) FS; 429.27(7), FS Resident Refund Policy 429.24 (3)(a) . . . The refund policy shall provide that the resident or responsible party is entitled to a prorated refund based on the daily rate for any unused portion of payment beyond the termination date after all charges, including the cost of damages to the residential unit resulting from circumstances other than normal use, have been paid to the licensee. For the purpose of this paragraph, the termination date shall be the date the unit is vacated by the resident and cleared of all personal belongings. If the amount of belongings does not preclude renting the unit, the facility may clear the unit and charge the resident or his or her estate for moving and storing the items at a rate equal to the actual cost to the facility, not to exceed 20 percent of the regular rate for the unit, provided that 14 days' advance written notification is given. If the resident's	A 168		

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A 168	Continued From page 6 possessions are not claimed within 45 days after notification, the facility may dispose of them. The contract shall also specify any other conditions under which claims will be made against the refund due the resident. Except in the case of or a discharge due to medical reasons, the refunds shall be computed in accordance with the notice of relocation requirements specified in the contract. However, a resident may not be required to provide the licensee with more than 30 days' notice of termination. If after a contract is terminated, the facility intends to make a claim against a refund due the resident, the facility shall notify the resident or responsible party in writing of the claim and shall provide said party with a reasonable time period of no less than 14 calendar days to respond. .... 429.27, FS Property and personal affairs of residents. - (7) In the event of the of a resident, a licensee shall return all refunds, funds, and property held in trust to the resident's personal representative, if one has been appointed at the time the facility disburses such funds, and, if not, to the resident's spouse or adult next of kin named in a beneficiary designation form provided by the facility to the resident. If the resident has no spouse or adult next of kin or such person cannot be located, funds due the resident shall be placed in an interest-bearing account, and all property held in trust by the facility shall be safeguarded until such time as the funds and property are disbursed pursuant to the Florida Probate Code. Such funds shall be kept separate from the funds and property of the facility and other residents of the facility. If the funds of the resident are not disbursed pursuant to the Florida Probate Code within 2 years after the	A 168		

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A 168	Continued From page 7 resident's , the funds shall be deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund administered by the agency. This Statute or Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on interviews and record reviews, the facility failed to provide a timely resident refund for one resident (Resident #3) of one sampled resident. Findings included: A record review of the facility's standard resident contract showed, "In cases of or discharge due to long term medical hospitalizations reasons, including mental health, the notice of termination is waived and a pro-rated refund will be given from the date of vacating of the unit within two weeks." During an interview on at 11:08 a.m., the Administrator stated Resident #3 , on and the family removed the items from the room on . During an interview on at 2:45 p.m., the Administrator confirmed a refund for Resident #3 was overdue for a total of $1,916.67 and was based on Resident #3's discharge in the case of . Photographic evidence obtained. Class III	A 168		

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ZZ814	435.12(2)(b-d), FS Background Screening Clearinghouse 435.12 Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.- (2)(b) Until such time as the , , are enrolled in the national retained print notification program at the Federal Bureau of Investigation: 1. A person with a break in service of more than 90 days from a position that requires screening by a specified agency must submit to a national screening if the person returns to a position that requires screening by a specified agency. 2. Effective , , , or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, for the participation of qualified entities in the clearinghouse under s. 435.12, a person with a break in service of more than 90 days from a position for which screening is conducted by a qualified entity participating in the clearinghouse must submit to a national screening if the person returns to a position for which screening is conducted by a qualified entity. (c) An employer of persons subject to screening or a qualified entity participating in the clearinghouse must register with the clearinghouse and maintain the employment or affiliation status of all persons included in the clearinghouse. 1. Before , , , initial status and any changes in status must be reported within 10 business days after a person receives his or her initial status or after a change in the person ' s status has been made. 2. Effective , , , initial status and any changes in status must be reported within 5 business days after a person receives his or her initial status or after a change in the person ' s status has been made.	ZZ814		

AHCA Form 3020-0001

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE | TITLE | (X6) DATE

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ZZ814	Continued From page 1 (d) An employer or a qualified entity participating in the clearinghouse must register with and initiate all criminal history checks through the clearinghouse before referring an employee or potential employee or a person with a current or potential affiliation with a qualified entity for electronic , submission to the Department of Law Enforcement. The registration must include the person ' s full first name, middle initial, and last name; social security number; date of birth; mailing address; ; and race. Individuals, persons, applicants, and controlling interests that cannot legally obtain a social security number must provide an individual taxpayer identification number. This Statute or Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on record review and interview, the facility failed to ensure employees were taken off the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) Background Screening Roster within five business days of end date, for four staff (Staff A, Staff C, Staff D, and Staff E) of five sampled staff. Findings included: A review of the facility's AHCA background screening roster revealed Staff A, Staff C, Staff D, and Staff E were not listed on the facility's AHCA Background Screening Roster. Staff A was hired on . Staff C was hired on . Staff D was hired on . Staff E was hired on . Duirng an interview on at 2:45 p.m., the Administrator agreed the employees should have been added to the AHCA Background Screening Roster.	ZZ814		

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ZZ814	Continued From page 2 Photographic evidence obtained. Unclassified	ZZ814		
ZZ815	408.809(1)( ); 435.02(2); 435.06 FS Background Screening; Prohibited Offenses 408.809 Background screening; prohibited offenses.- (1) Level 2 background screening pursuant to chapter 435 must be conducted through the agency on each of the following persons, who are considered employees for the purposes of conducting screening under chapter 435: (a) The licensee, if an individual. (b) The administrator or a similarly titled person who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the provider. (c) The financial officer or similarly titled individual who is responsible for the financial operation of the licensee or provider. (d) Any person who is a controlling interest. (e) Any person, as required by authorizing statutes, seeking employment with a licensee or provider who is expected to, or whose responsibilities may require him or her to, provide personal care or services directly to clients or have access to client funds, personal property, or living areas; and any person, as required by authorizing statutes, ⌄ with a licensee or provider whose responsibilities require him or her to provide personal care or personal services directly to clients, or ⌄ with a licensee or provider to work 20 hours a week or more who will have access to client funds, personal property, or living areas. Evidence of contractor screening may be retained by the contractor's employer or the licensee.	ZZ815		

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ZZ815	Continued From page 3	ZZ815		

(3) All , must be provided in electronic format. Screening results shall be reviewed by the agency with respect to the offenses specified in s. 435.04 and this section, and the qualifying or disqualifying status of the person named in the request shall be maintained in a database. The qualifying or disqualifying status of the person named in the request shall be posted on a secure website for retrieval by the licensee or designated agent on the licensee's behalf.

(4) In addition to the offenses listed in s. 435.04, all persons required to undergo background screening pursuant to this part or authorizing statutes must not have an awaiting final disposition for, must not have been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, and must not have been adjudicated delinquent and the record not have been sealed or expunged for any of the following offenses or any similar offense of another jurisdiction:
(a) Any authorizing statutes, if the offense was a felony.
(b) This chapter, if the offense was a felony.
(c) Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud.
(d) Section 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.
(e) Section 741.28, relating to domestic violence.
(f) Section 777.04, relating to attempts, solicitation, and conspiracy to commit an offense listed in this subsection.
(g) Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim is a adult as defined in s. 415.102 or a patient or resident of a facility licensed under chapter 395, chapter 400, or chapter 429.
(h) Section 817.034, relating to fraudulent acts through mail, wire, radio, electromagnetic,

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ZZ815	Continued From page 4	ZZ815		

photoelectronic, or photooptical systems.
(i) Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent insurance claims.
(j) Section 817.481, relating to obtaining goods by using a false or expired credit card or other credit device, if the offense was a felony.
(k) Section 817.50, relating to fraudulently obtaining goods or services from a health care provider.
(l) Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
(m) Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.
(n) Section 817.60, relating to obtaining a credit card through fraudulent means.
(o) Section 817.61, relating to fraudulent use of credit cards, if the offense was a felony.
(p) Section 831.01, relating to forgery.
(q) Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged instruments.
(r) Section 831.07, relating to forging bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
(s) Section 831.09, relating to uttering forged bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
(t) Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining medicinal drugs.
(u) Section 831.31, relating to the sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver any counterfeit controlled substance, if the offense was a felony.
(v) Section 895.03, relating to racketeering and collection of unlawful debts.
(w) Section 896.101, relating to the Florida Money Laundering Act.
If, upon rescreening, a person who is currently employed or with a licensee and was screened and qualified under s. 435.04 has a disqualifying offense that was not a disqualifying offense at the time of the last screening, but is a

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ZZ815	Continued From page 5 current disqualifying offense and was committed before the last screening, he or she may apply for an exemption from the appropriate licensing agency and, if agreed to by the employer, may continue to perform his or her duties until the licensing agency renders a decision on the application for exemption if the person is eligible to apply for an exemption and the exemption request is received by the agency no later than 30 days after receipt of the rescreening results by the person. (5) The costs associated with obtaining the required screening must be borne by the licensee or the person subject to screening. Licensees may reimburse persons for these costs. The Department of Law Enforcement shall charge the agency for screening pursuant to s. 943.053(3). The agency shall establish a schedule of fees to cover the costs of screening. (6)(a) As provided in chapter 435, the agency may grant an exemption from disqualification to a person who is subject to this section and who: 1. Does not have an active professional license or certification from the Department of Health; or 2. Has an active professional license or certification from the Department of Health but is not providing a service within the scope of that license or certification. (b) As provided in chapter 435, the appropriate regulatory board within the Department of Health, or the department itself if there is no board, may grant an exemption from disqualification to a person who is subject to this section and who has received a professional license or certification from the Department of Health or a regulatory board within that department and that person is providing a service within the scope of his or her	ZZ815		

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED
	AL11965659	A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING _____	07/09/2026

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ZZ815	Continued From page 6 licensed or certified practice. (7) The agency and the Department of Health may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section, chapter 435, and authorizing statutes requiring background screening and to implement and adopt criteria relating to retaining , pursuant to s. 943.05(2). (8) There is no reemployment assistance or other monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages arising against, an employer that, upon notice of a disqualifying offense listed under chapter 435 or this section, terminates the person against whom the report was issued, whether or not that person has filed for an exemption with the Department of Health or the agency. 435.06 Exclusion from employment.- (1) If an employer or agency has reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist for the denial or termination of employment of any employee as a result of background screening, it shall notify the employee in writing, stating the specific record that indicates noncompliance with the standards in this chapter. It is the responsibility of the affected employee to contest his or her disqualification or to request exemption from disqualification. The only basis for contesting the disqualification is proof of mistaken identity. (2)(a) An employer may not hire, select, or otherwise allow an employee to have contact with any person that would place the employee in a role that requires background screening until the screening process is completed and demonstrates the absence of any grounds for the denial or termination of	ZZ815		

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ZZ815	Continued From page 7	ZZ815		

employment. If the screening process shows any grounds for the denial or termination of employment, the employer may not hire, select, or otherwise allow the employee to have contact with any person that would place the employee in a role that requires background screening unless the employee is granted an exemption for the disqualification by the agency as provided under s. 435.07.
(b) If an employer becomes aware that an employee has been for a disqualifying offense, the employer must remove the employee from contact with any person that places the employee in a role that requires background screening until the is resolved in a way that the employer determines that the employee is still eligible for employment under this chapter.
(c) The employer must terminate the employment of any of its personnel found to be in noncompliance with the minimum standards of this chapter or place the employee in a position for which background screening is not required unless the employee is granted an exemption from disqualification pursuant to s. 435.07.
(d) An employer may hire an employee to a position that requires background screening before the employee completes the screening process for training and orientation purposes. However, the employee may not have direct contact with persons until the screening process is completed and the employee demonstrates that he or she exhibits no behaviors that warrant the denial or termination of employment.
(3) Any employee who refuses to cooperate in such screening or refuses to timely submit the information necessary to complete the screening, including , if required, must be

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ZZ815	Continued From page 8	ZZ815		

disqualified for employment in such position or, if employed, must be dismissed.
(4) There is no reemployment assistance or other monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages against, an employer that, upon notice of a conviction or for a disqualifying offense listed under this chapter, terminates the person against whom the report was issued or who was , regardless of whether or not that person has filed for an exemption pursuant to this chapter.

435.02 Definitions.-For the purposes of this chapter, the term:
(2) "Employee" means any person required by law to be screened pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited to, persons who are contractors, licensees, or volunteers.

This Statute or Rule is not met as evidenced by:
Based on record review and interview, the facility failed to ensure employee records contained evidence of an eligible level 2 background screening for four employees (Staff A, Staff B, Staff C, and Staff E) of five sampled employees.

Findings included:

An employee record review for Staff A, conducted on , revealed Staff A's employee record did not contain evidence of an eligible level 2 background screening. Staff A had a hire date of .

An employee record review for Staff B, conducted on , revealed Staff B's employee record did not contain evidence of an eligible level 2 background screening. Staff B had a hire date of .

Agency for Health Care Administration

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ZZ815	Continued From page 9 An employee record review for Staff C, conducted on , revealed Staff C's employee record did not contain evidence of an eligible level 2 background screening. Staff C had a hire date of . An employee record review for Staff E, conducted on , revealed Staff E's employee record did not contain evidence of an eligible level 2 background screening. Staff E had a hire date of . During an interview on at 2:45 p.m. the Administrator agreed there was not an eligible level 2 background screening for Staff A, Staff B, Staff C, and Staff E. Photographic evidence obtained. Unclassified	ZZ815		