STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED
	D5809	A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING _____	04/08/2026

NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER	STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
COL ROBERT L HOWARD STATE VETERANS HOME F	7054 VETERANS PARKWAY PELL CITY, AL 35125

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A 000	Initial Comments On April 8, 2026, an unannounced licensure survey was conducted for this 80 bed Assisted Living Facility (ALF) with a census of 80. There were no complaints investigated during this survey. Deficiencies were cited during this survey for failure to operate in accordance with the Rules of the Alabama State Board of Health (SBOH), Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Chapter 420-5-4, Alabama Administrative Code, for Assisted Living Facilities. The deficiencies cited pose a potential risk of harm to the residents and require a plan of correction.	A 000		
A 804	420-5-4-.08 (4) Physical Facilities. (4) Food Service Facilities. (a) Floors. Floors in food service areas shall be of such construction as to be easily cleaned, sound, smooth, non-absorbent, without cracks or crevices, and shall be provided with approved and conveniently located facilities for the disposal of floor wash water. (b) Walls and Ceilings. Walls and ceilings of food service areas shall be of tight and substantial construction, and smoothly finished. The walls and ceilings shall be without horizontal ledges and shall be washable up to the highest level reached by splash and spray. Roofs and walls shall be maintained free of leaks. All openings to the exterior shall be provided with doors or windows which prevent the entrance of rain or dust during inclement weather. (c) Screens or Outside Openings.	A 804		

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A 804	Continued From page 1 Openings to the outside shall be effectively screened, or suitable provisions made equal to screening (such as fly fans). Screen doors shall be equipped with self-closing devices. (d) Lighting. The kitchen, dishwashing area and the dining room shall have adequate light. (e) Ventilation. Vent/exhaust hoods, vented to the outdoors, shall be provided over cooking surfaces to aid in removing cooking odors. Existing recirculating vent hoods in Family facilities may remain in use when filters are cleaned or replaced regularly to prevent excess grease accumulation. Group assisted living facilities with residential stoves may use a residential hood sized for the stove. Commercial exhaust hoods shall be installed when commercial cooking equipment is used. Congregate facilities shall use a commercial exhaust hood system. (f) Employee Toilet Facilities. Toilet rooms, if provided, shall not open directly into any room or space in which food is prepared, stored, displayed, or served, nor into any room in which utensils are washed or stored. Toilet rooms shall include a lavatory and shall be well lighted and ventilated. (g) Hand Washing Facilities. Each Group and Congregate assisted living facility shall provide a hand washing lavatory in the kitchens which shall be equipped with a soap dispenser and a supply of soap, disposable towels, and hot and cold running water through a mixing valve or combination faucet. The use of a common towel and common bar soap is	A 804		

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A 804	Continued From page 2	A 804		

prohibited. Hands shall not be washed in sinks where food is prepared. Existing Group and Congregate facilities that enlarge or renovate kitchens shall install a hand wash sink.

(h) Refrigeration Facilities. Adequate refrigeration facilities, automatic in operation for the storage of perishable foods shall be provided. Refrigeration shall be maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or less. All refrigerators shall be provided with thermometers. All refrigerators shall be kept clean.

(i) Equipment and Utensil Construction. Equipment and utensils, except single service utensils, shall be so constructed as to be easily cleaned and shall be kept in good repair. No cadmium plated, lead, or readily corrodible utensils or equipment shall be used.

(j) Separation of Kitchen from Resident Rooms and Sleeping Quarters. Any room used for sleeping quarters shall be separated from the food service area by a solid wall with no direct openings. Sleeping accommodations shall not be permitted within the food service area.

(k) Clean Rooms. Floors, walls, and ceilings of rooms in the food service area shall be clean and free of an accumulation of rubbish, dust, grease, dirt, etc.

(l) Clean Equipment. Equipment in the food service area shall be clean and free of dust, grease, dirt, etc.

(m) Clean Counters, Tables, Tablecloths, and Napkins. Tables and counters, which are used for food service, shall be kept clean.

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A 804	Continued From page 3 Tablecloths and cloth napkins shall be laundered after each use. (n) Location and Space Requirements. Food service facilities shall be located in a specifically designated area and shall include the following rooms and space: kitchen, dishwashing, food storage, and dining room. (o) Equipment. Minimum equipment in the kitchen shall include the following: 1. Range. In a Family or Group assisted living facility, a residential use range is permitted. A Congregate assisted living facility shall have a heavy-duty range suitable for institutional use with double oven, or equivalent. 2. Refrigerator. A Family or Group assisted living facility may use a residential refrigerator. A Congregate assisted living facility shall have a heavy duty refrigerator suitable for institutional use. 3. Fire extinguisher. A five-pound type BC for residential hoods, and K type for commercial hoods. 4. Dishwashing. The dishwashing equipment for Family and Group assisted living facilities shall be either residential type using cold water sanitizers or commercial type with a booster water heater. Dishwashing equipment for all Congregate assisted living facilities shall be commercial type using a booster water heater or an automatic dispensing sanitizing chemical system.	A 804		

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A 804	Continued From page 4 5. A three-compartment sink with a booster heater or chemical sanitizing system for the third compartment shall be provided in Congregate assisted living facilities. 6. Garbage cans with cover. (p) Food Storage. A well-ventilated, cool food storage room, pantry, or cabinets shall be provided. Adequate shelving, bins, suitable cans, and raised platforms shall be provided and kept clean. Perishable food shall be stored at least six inches above the floor. The storeroom shall be of such construction as to prevent the invasion of rodents and insects, the seepage of dust and water, leakage, or any other source of contamination. (q) Dining Room. A resident dining room, or rooms, shall be provided which is large enough to seat not less than 100 percent of the bed capacity. (r) Water Heating Equipment. Equipment for heating an ample supply of water, under pressure, for all washing purposes shall be provided. Hot water shall be piped to all hand-washing facilities, and to each compartment of all dishwashing and laundry sinks. Water heaters shall be automatic type. This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on observations and interviews, the facility failed to properly maintain refrigerators which were owned by the facility and provided in residents' rooms.	A 804		

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A 804	Continued From page 5 Findings: During tours of residents' rooms, on April 6, 7 and 8, 2026, the surveyors observed multiple refrigerators and freezers in the residents' rooms which did not contain thermometers. Residents reported to the surveyors that the refrigerators were provided to them by the facility and were owned by the facility. On the morning of April 8, 2026, the surveyor asked Employee Identifier (EI)#2 about refrigerators in residents' rooms. EI#2 confirmed that the refrigerators were owned by the facility and also confirmed that thermometers were to be maintained in all refrigerators and freezers and temperatures of the refrigerators and freezers were to be monitored by staff on each floor. No temperature logs were provided to the surveyors. On the afternoon of April 8, 2026, EI#2 stated to the surveyors that thermometers were being placed in all residents' refrigerators and freezers and a new system had been developed for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to monitor and document the temperatures as well as to assist residents with keeping the refrigerators and freezers clean.	A 804		
A1201	420-5-4-.12 (1) Physical Environment. (1) Buildings and Grounds. (a) The assisted living facility including site and grounds must be constructed, arranged, and maintained to ensure the safety of the residents and building occupants. (b) Building Classification.	A1201		

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A1201	Continued From page 6 1. Family assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the types of residents to be admitted and shall comply with the Life Safety Code Chapter for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, and shall comply with Sections (1), (2), (3), and (4) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12. 2. Group assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the residents to be admitted and shall comply with Section (1), (2), (3), and (5) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12. 3. Congregate assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the residents to be admitted and shall comply with Sections (1), (2), (3), (6) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12. 4. Renovation within the exterior walls of an assisted living facility shall in no case be of such nature as to lower the character of the structure below the applicable building requirements for the classification of license held by the assisted living facility. 5. Dually Licensed Facility. (i) For the purposes of meeting physical facility and building code requirements, a building housing both a regular assisted living facility and a specialty care assisted living facility shall be classified as a Group or Congregate facility in accordance with the combined licensed bed capacities of both facilities. For the purposes of meeting resident care and administrative requirements, the specialty care assisted living facility and the regular assisted living facility shall be separately considered, and each shall be classified as a Congregate facility or a Group	A1201		

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A1201	Continued From page 7	A1201		

facility in accordance with the licensed bed capacity of each, and the determination shall not be based on their combined bed capacity. See Rule 420-5-20 for Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities and requirements.

(ii) When a facility has a portion of a building licensed for specialty care residents, instead of the entire facility, the sleeping, bathing, dining, and activity areas shall be in a distinct and separate unit within the building, licensed for specialty care assisted living. Administrative, kitchen, and service areas may be shared between the two licensed portions.

(c) Location. All assisted living facilities established or constructed shall be located so that they are free from undue noises, smoke, dust, or foul odors. New assisted living facilities shall be located at least 1,000 feet from railroads, freight yards, or disposal plants. This distance can be reduced to 500 feet when facility is separated by a boarded fence at least six feet high. This rule shall not prevent enlargement or expansion of existing assisted living facilities.

(d) Local Restrictions. The location and construction of all assisted living facilities shall comply with local zoning, building, and fire ordinances. Evidence to this effect, signed by local fire, building, or zoning officials, may be required as a condition of licensure. If a facility is to be located in an area that does not have any zoning, building, or fire authority review, a letter stating such shall be obtained from the local county commission through official board action or from the office of the probate judge.

(e) Assisted living facilities shall be

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A1201	Continued From page 8 located on publicly maintained streets or roads, and connected with driveways which shall be kept passable at all times. (f) Occupancy. No part of an assisted living facility may be rented, leased, or used for any commercial purpose not reasonably necessary for the residents of the facility or the residents of other licensed facilities on the same campus. A campus consists of the premises occupied by the licensed facility together with all parcels or property that the governing authority owns or has the legal right to occupy, and which are separated from the remainder of the campus only by a public right of way. Services provided within the facility shall be limited to serving the residents of facilities on the campus that are licensed by the Department. The Department shall approve all plans for occupancy. (g) Basements. The basement shall be considered as a story if it meets criteria established by the codes for a story. (h) The assisted living facility must maintain adequate furnishings, fixtures, supplies, and equipment for its services. (i) Facilities, supplies, and equipment must be maintained in safe operating condition. (j) There must be proper ventilation, light, and temperature controls in pharmaceutical, food preparation, and other appropriate areas. This Rule is not met as evidenced by: Based on an observation and interviews, the	A1201		

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A1201	Continued From page 9 facility failed to maintain the grounds in the courtyard. Findings: On the afternoon of April 7, 2026, an observation was made along with EI#1. The grass had not been cut and weeds were overgrown. During an interview on the afternoon of April 8, 2026, EI#1 and EI#2 agreed with the surveyors' findings. THERESA HARRISON, REGISTERED NURSE CONNIE CHERRY, REGISTERED NURSE	A1201		