

**Subject:** Re: Question  
**From:** Andrey Capelson <acapelson@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 3/12/2021, 7:47 AM  
**To:** "Rev. Angela Smith" <rev@cope.church>

Hey,

Thank you for your response. I feel you've answered my questions to the best of your abilities. Sorry to hear about the passing of your dog. Feel free to share this email thread. I will continue doing my research. Thanks again for your help.

On Friday, March 5, 2021, Rev. Angela Smith <rev@cope.church> wrote:

Dear Andrey,

The message appears to be from an e-mail response from likely over a decade ago because it references ISAC (International Survivors Action Committee) which was discontinued over 10 years ago to my knowledge. I tried to find it at [archive.org](https://archive.org) and they exclude ISAC from the archive. Our system has been hit a few times and we've lost files over the years. I just ran a search in the Excel Academy e-mail archives for "Brianna" and found no results. So, we don't have the original message. It actually looks like it might be from an old newsletter. We've been in existence for nearly 20 years. Would you like to be added to e-mail list and to receive future quarterly e-newsletters? Also, most of the older newsletters included a header saying not to share it with third-parties because it may contain sensitive information like the info about Ashley DeBoer at the time. So, I would have appreciated if Brianna asked if it was okay to share or just shared links that were already public rather than the entire newsletter. And, she's not on the e-newsletter recipient list so it seems like someone may have shared it with her without consent. I forward things too on occasion to people I trust so I understand and forgive it.

There is one Briana who receives the e-newsletter. There is only one "n" in her first name and her last name doesn't even start with a "B". I have no way of authenticating that that message was even written by me. But, it does appear to be a newsletter with content I would have included at the time.

The legal arguments page at <https://www.heal-online.org/legalarguments.htm> is where I believe the info you are seeking is still available. Aspen Education Group is reportedly closed. CRC Health now belongs to Acadia. CRC Health acquired Aspen. Acadia has acquired CRC Health. Please feel free to use the search box at the bottom of the mission homepage at <https://www.heal-online.org> for your research and ask me to cite any sources you feel are not effectively cited on any page of the mission site.

If you sent an e-mail over a decade ago and forgot about it and someone posted it to Facebook without your knowledge or consent and you were asked about it, do you think you would answer better than I have with this reply? I'd love your thoughts and if particularly helpful in a universal way, hope you would consider allowing this entire thread to be posted as Feedback to <https://www cope church/feedback.htm>.

Right now, I'm focused on updating the info on programs operating in Idaho, mourning the death of

my dog who died Tuesday (3/2/21), and responding to parents who need emergency assistance to get their kids out of abusive programs among other things. I apologize if you feel I've over-shared, please see <https://youtu.be/FZHULYhYn1Q> and <https://youtu.be/tVAuJ3L1CEs> for more info about this paragraph including how over-sharing is a common coping strategy that can be good for those with traumatic stress, PTSD, and/or Complex PTSD.

If I can be of further help, please let me know. I'll do my best.

In Solidarity,

Rev. Angela Smith  
HEAL Mission National Coordinator/Founding Mother of COPE

On 3/5/2021 7:21 PM, Andrey Capelson wrote:

Hey I just have one more question. I took a screenshot of the end of the post I originally sent you (which I didn't include until now.) At the end it is signed by someone named Angela. Is this the Rev. Angela Smith that you mentioned? Does she maybe have any info about this? Thank you.

On Friday, March 5, 2021, HEAL <[heal@heal-online.org](mailto:heal@heal-online.org)> wrote:

Dear Andrey,

Unless Brianna provided you the exact link to the exact page or a .pdf of a document where she found that information, we don't know anymore than we've already shared with you about the language she quoted. The quote is not found on our website. We've been doing advocacy and research on this issue for 19 years this month. There have been hundreds of programs on our watch-list over the years. There are over 28,000 survivors and families in our network. Some of our organizers aren't even on Facebook at all. So, your guess is as good as ours on the source unless Brianna, the person responsible for claiming to be quoting us provides you the exact document or location of the quote she attributes to us in her Facebook post.

So, if Brianna is saying "I got it from <https://www.heal-online.org>" and that's the only link or info she's providing as the source, we can tell you that phrase and reference has never appeared on the mission homepage. We're not willing to say there was never such a phrase on our site or in our literature as it is clear from what was provided to you in the first response we did find a page with similar language that cites sources and provided that to you in the first response. So, we are not suggesting Brianna is lying unless she is claiming to be a representative of HEAL Mission and she is not though is welcome to volunteer with us. She'll need to contact us and agree to the volunteer policies first though. Again, we do support all survivors and encourage independence. But, we prefer people not claim to represent HEAL Mission if they are actually working independent of HEAL Mission even if they support our efforts and believe that feeling is mutual.

So, again, Brianna needs to be more clear in citing the source of her quote beyond just saying "HEAL". We understand many survivors were failed in terms of academic and/or educational services so may not know how to properly cite a source. And, Facebook is so casual that people may just talk in a rumor-like fashion and feel a casual reference to the believed source

is sufficient for Facebook. We do provide a lot of examples of how to properly cite sources including modern ways such as providing the hyperlink or link to the original via hypertext. But, we can't force anyone to convert or adopt our model in terms of citing sources or citing sources properly.

Now, the documents about SeaMar are provided via hypertext link on the page at <https://www.heal-online.org/legalarguments.htm> shared with you in the first reply. Those documents are at <http://www.heal-online.org/seamarexp.pdf>.

If Brianna can provide you the correct full citation, we can provide you the identity of who made the statements if it was something on our site or in our literature. There are over 1 million printable pages of information on our sites. So, we often use the search box ourselves found at the bottom of <https://www.heal-online.org> and enter in specific words or phrases (it is provided by Google) to see what we have and since we cite our sources the author or person responsible for any content should be clear. Rev. Angela Smith is the webmaster and handles all web-updates. If a source isn't cited it is because they requested anonymity. Rev. Smith is responsible for all of <https://www.heal-online.org/legalarguments.htm> as written .

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Best Wishes,

HEAL Missionary Team for COPE

On 3/5/2021 7:21 AM, Andrey Capelson wrote:

Thank you for your response. I reached out to Brianna and she directed me to your website. I was interested in the part of my screenshots where it talked about the school's financial dealings, possible contract with the US government, and possible medical research being done on the students. I would really like to find the person who made those statements and see if they have verifiable sources. I'm currently researching the connections Excel Academy had with other entities. I will keep searching. Thank you for your time.

- Andrey

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, HEAL <[heal@heal-online.org](mailto:heal@heal-online.org)> wrote:

Dear Andrey,

Thank you for contacting us! Most of the screenshots you provided appear to be statements by a Brianna Bourassa who is claiming to be a survivor of Excel Academy in Texas. We are not familiar with Briana and she is not registered with the church or mission. We did see in the last of the screenshots reference to supposedly something HEAL said or someone claiming to represent HEAL said. We'd need the source cited. So, we'd need to know what document or page if any on our site was being quoted or referenced by Briana since we don't know her and she is not registered in any way nor a volunteer for the church nor HEAL Mission to our knowledge though we do encourage everyone to be independent.

After searching our site for the phrase "We at HEAL have also found similar contracts regarding SeaMar", we found the following and it is the only page on our site with similar language: <https://www.heal-online.org/legalarguments.htm> Here's what comes up with "SeaMar" on that page:

Only Occurrence: "Some programs run by Aspen Education Group admit to experimenting on the children right in the contract. SeaMar in Washington also admits to experimenting on the children." The sources are cited on the page.

But, as far as the phrasing used by Briana, no results. It is possible another official HEAL Missionary (see <https://www.heal-online.org/help.htm> ) posted a comment with that language at some point on Facebook which has since been quoted by Briana. We suggest asking Briana for the citation for info in her post.

In Solidarity,

HEAL Missionary Team for COPE

On 3/4/2021 9:43 AM, Andrey Capelson wrote:

Hey,

I attended Excel Academy as a teenager in Conroe, TX from 2002-2003. I witnessed and suffered through various forms of abuse. We alumni have a private Facebook group, and while scrolling through it I found an interesting post. I've attached some screenshots of it. I was wondering where you got that information from and if you could offer any sources for it. I'm very intrigued by it. Thank you.

- Andrey Capelson