

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center in UT

By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 3/16/22

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 55 separate complaints from individuals and families alleging corruption, improper restraint (5-point restraint), physical abuse, mistreatment, sexual abuse, rape (staff on client/student), caused or exacerbated traumatic stress, monitored/censored/restricted communications/held incommunicado, one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “I am a graduate of cinnamon hills. I lived there for 14 months and I was a victim a few times in restraints, the first time I got restrained was by a staff member, he was in my face while I was sitting on the green floor with my back against the wall and the staff member got in my face talking shit like he was out of control and he wanted me to go off and then called a code blue on me, then slammed me on the floor, then seven or eight staff came running through the door while this ass hole has me on the ground already they all had to take a limb and they twisted and twisted right to where your arms about to brake and I know they did this to who ever got a code blue most of my peers, some of the other kids had scrapes rug burns. The second time I got restrained they kicked me off the phone because I started talking to my older brother about the first time I got restrained, they were listening on the other line because they observe all calls, so they kicked me off the phone twisted my arm behind my back and started walking me down to U.C. and I wasnt out of control so I couldnt understand why I was being punished and half way there I started arguing like any one would, trying to plead there case in a fucked situation like that, so the staff slammed my face against the bricks right by the kitchen, called another code blue on me and its de ja vu all over again”, one former staff reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “You have me listed as a staff member under Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center. It is true that worked there for 2 years but I hated my time there. I left CHYCC...and I would have quit sooner but was unable to find another job and needed something to put food on the table. I'm writing you because I would like to have my name removed from that site. I do not support Cinnamon Hills nor do I want to be associated with them. I disagree with everything about that place. I would NEVER recommend that place to anyone. My coworkers were bullies, played favorites, and treated the kids like shit. A large majority of my coworkers have ended up in jail since I worked there. I am currently in grad school to become a Marriage and Family Therapist and as someone who, professionally, wants to help youth I would never, ever recommend Cinnamon Hills. I chose to work there because I wanted to help people heal as well as gain professional experience. I quickly found that CH had no interest in either of those things,” sleep deprivation, child exploitation/labor trafficking, one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “I was at Cinnamon Hills for little over a year and I still have trouble talking about my experiences there. If you want to know more information then please write back to me I want to help you shut that place down. Its nothing more then a place of child abuse, extortion and forced labor”, improper medication, and coercive thought reform at Cinnamon Hills. Some of these complaints are referenced online and others remain confidential and on file with the church. With the intention of providing an opportunity for closure, clarification, and potentially peace, on 3/8/22 Rev. Angela Smith invited

Cinnamon Hills victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

"Dear Cinnamon Hills Survivors and Families,

Cinnamon Hills is on the HEAL Mission watch-list (of fraudulent and abusive programs) and enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program based on your reports to the HEAL Mission alleging fraud, abuse, and/or other violations. You can learn more or refresh your memory at <https://www.heal-online.org/thelist.htm> and/or <https://www.heal-online.org/cinnhills.htm> .

The HEAL Mission and COPE Conversion Program (for Conversion Programs) has updated our protocols to provide entities populating the watch-list and/or enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program three ways off the watch-list or out of the program. Death and/or closure remains one way after which they will be buried at <http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm> with the others who didn't make it off the list or reform in time. Programs enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program/placed on the watch-list are also eligible for graduation if they meet the minimum Honesty In Marketing Standards described and/or provided via hypertext link at <https://www.cope.church/standards.htm> . The third option is merciful release. Merciful releases are determined by date of last directly reported to the HEAL Mission complaint (date of incident(s) of abuse), whether those incidents occurred prior to when by custom or law the requirement to retain such records has expired, and whether Sponsors (you) are actively participating or maintaining interest in holding your program accountable.

The most recent complaint the mission received on Cinnamon Hills occurred in 2018 (if you were abused later than that then you did not include the dates of your enrollment when you contacted the HEAL Mission). The custom is to retain such records for 7 years in Utah. So, the requirements for merciful release have not been met. This is an invitation for you to provide a guest sermon no later than Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 at 8pm Pacific otherwise a progress report will be posted in lieu of your sermon. The progress report will remain up until December 31st, 2025 after which, if there are no new complaints and no guest sermon by the 2025 deadline, Cinnamon Hills will receive a merciful release and be removed from the watch-list. For guest sermons and progress reports see <https://www.heal-online.org> . Here's how to participate:

1. In the body of an e-mail message write out your complete sermon and include answers to the following questions:

Did you report fraud or other unlawful actions to the proper authorities? If not, why? If so, what happened with the reports? (So, 2 part question)

Why do you believe Cinnamon Hills should remain enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program?

2. Send that guest sermon to me at rev@cope.church with your first and last name (full)

and notify me if you wish for your contact information to be included or for all feedback to be handled by the mission and/or church. Your full first and last name will be shared along with your sermon as written and provided by you. It will be posted as a Guest Sermon at <https://www.heal-online.org> , <https://www.heal-online.org/cinnhills.htm> , and <https://www.cope.church/sermons.htm> .

If no one provides a guest sermon and there are no new complaints received by the HEAL Mission of COPE by December 31st, 2025, Cinnamon Hills will be mercifully released.

Thank you in advance for participating. And, please learn more about how to value your contributions at <https://www.cope.church/givetoday.pdf>.

In Solidarity,

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

Now, there was a vote on whether Cinnamon Hills should remain on the watch-list initiated on April 9th, 2020 where all Sponsors of that program's placement in the COPE Conversion Program were invited to participate. The majority voted against merciful release or the equivalent at that time. HEAL Mission and the COPE Conversion Program recognize participation in the vote in April as recent enough participation even if Sponsors prefer more time to consider, write, and/or provide any guest sermon. While we understand this may be disappointing for Cinnamon Hills, it is the hope that this progress report helps explain the reasons for the continued enrollment/placement in the COPE Conversion Program. Additional or continued participation by Sponsors, including providing guest sermons or participating in future votes will impact whether or not the program qualifies for merciful release or remains enrolled. Lack of participation by Sponsors where all other criteria for merciful release are met, will result in merciful release of the program.

Similar invitations will be going out to all survivor/victim/whistleblower e-mail lists and their respective programs placed on the watch-list. It may take some time to get through the entire list especially if enrollments pick up. But, we are working on it and everyone can submit Feedback at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> at any time regardless of position regarding program placement or enrollment.

To close, I remind everyone that there are remedies at law. Labor trafficking, rape, fraud (misleading marketing/false advertising), false imprisonment, kidnapping, battery, assault, and any crime or tort you could name are actionable at law. The HEAL Mission of COPE is prepared to assist all victims by providing reporting resources and information for the sake of justice and we appreciate all Sponsors who selflessly contribute content for the sake of informing the public to help those exercising due diligence avoid becoming a victim. Reporting Guide Available at: <https://www.heal-online.org/report.htm> and <https://www.heal-online.org/cinnhills.htm> .