

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: Oak Plains Academy (formerly known as CHAD Youth Enhancement Center) in TN  
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church> ) Dated: 1/19/22

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 15 separate complaints from individuals and families alleging physical abuse, forced improper/excessive medication, deprivation of basic needs, improper restraint, held incommunicado (communication blackouts, mail/calls monitored and censored), one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “The staff that were most abusive were Mr Guthfrey who bent my wrist backwards and pushed on my pressure points on my shoulders Yovonn Wiley who performed improper restrains by knocking the patient to the ground hands behind there back and laying on top of them. Angela Lee she was very combative and verbally abusive she also performed improper restraints. This place was also very racist After Linda passed I told my mom and I lost phone privialages for a week.”, one current staff member reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission "I recently was hired as an " education assistant". Not only are there no education standards in place, the staff singles out certain children and allow them to be attacked by other children and then rewarding the attacker. On my first day of only observing,I had to protect a child who was said by staff that they hate. The child was severely beaten and then was told it was her fault. This place discriminates against employees and the poor children who live there.”, academic fraud, bigotry, classism, one former nursing staff reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “I filed a formal grievance regarding unethical and immoral behavior reflected in the decisions and actions of my supervisor, Matt Ours, as well as violation of laws protecting employee rights. The next day I was fired. Mr. Ours informed me that Oak Plains Academy no longer would be in need of my services. He referred to our employment contract that included the provision, that if at any time, any party wished to terminate the relationship without cause, they could do so by giving 30 days notice. My response was that due to the fact I had filed a formal grievance against him less than twenty four hours ago, the decision seemed to be retaliatory in nature.

My experiences at Oak Plains Academy included:

- a) Indirect harassment and/or discrimination
- b) Deceit regarding sharing responsibilities with another clinician
- c) Recipient of intentional harassment
- d) subject to a "hostile work environment" as well as "singled out- only employee held to certain stipulations, both of these constitute as violation of basic employee rights sanctioned in employment laws

And

- e) Victim of egregious actions imposed by my supervisor with sole intent to humiliate and degrade me in front of my fellow employees

After considerable deliberation and the counsel of Mr. Jeremy Parham, an employment attorney in Nashville, I choose not to pursue arbitration. This decision was based on my attorney's experience that rarely did the Tennessee courts find the employer guilty "of anything" if there was "an at will, no cause, statement" in the employment agreement.”, wrongful death and near death experiences, one parent reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “My son is a resident there currently and called me alleging serious acts of abuse this evening. It appears that history is repeating itself. I contacted the sheriff’s office,

who in turn contacted the CEO and Nurse Manager, and it appears my child's allegations were true about the abuse that occurred. I'm interested in learning what your organization's involvement is and how this can be stopped. My child could have died tonight after being beaten and smothered by two staff members.", and fraud at Oak Plains Academy (formerly known as CHAD Youth Enhancement Center). 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 1/11/22 Rev. Angela Smith invited Oak Plains/CHAD victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

"Dear CHAD Youth Enhancement AKA Oak Plains Academy Survivors and Families,

Oak Plains Academy formerly known as CHAD (Oak Plains) 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/chad.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 Oak Plains Academy (FKA CHAD) occurred in 2020 (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 10 years in Tennessee. 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, January 19th, 2022 at 8pm Pacific if you believe Oak Plains Academy (FKA CHAD) should remain on the watch-list beyond December 31st, 2030 (a progress report will be posted in lieu of a guest sermon beginning January 19th, 2022 through December 31st, 2030 if a guest sermon is not provided by the deadline). For sermons (including guest sermons), see <https://www.cope.church/sermons.htm> and for 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 Oak Plains Academy (formerly known as CHAD) should remain enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program?

2. Send that guest sermon to me at [rev@cope.church](mailto: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/chad.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, 2030, Oak Plains Academy (formerly known as CHAD) 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 Oak Plains Academy (FKA CHAD) should remain on the watch-list initiated on April 7th, 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 Oak Plains Academy (FKA CHAD), 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/chad.htm> .