

## RESEARCH STUDY AND REPORT

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(<https://www.cope.church> )

### Introduction:

In 1998, I, Minister Angela Smith, created an online/internet message board to discuss institutionalized abuse in segregated congregate care and specifically at Provo Canyon School in Utah where I was abused in 1989. I did that after finding online that Provo Canyon School was still open with much of the same staff and leadership as when I was enrolled. I initially shared my experience on that message board and as one of the first message boards available addressing this issue it received greater response than I expected and additional segregated congregate care programs and facilities became known to me that were reportedly equally abusive or fraudulent. In 1998, I was also heavily involved in the animal rights movement and arguably influenced or inspired in some ways regarding how to approach addressing areas of social controversy as an activist.

In 2002, I stepped down as the University of Washington coordinator for the Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN) and with a few friends on campus co-founded Human Earth Animal Liberation (HEAL) as a registered student organization. We started with the acronym (HEAL) and discussed what each letter should stand for agreeing on Human Earth Animal Liberation. Our founding goals included uniting Human Rights, Environmental Conservation/Sustainability, and Animal Welfare efforts so all of the areas of controversy could support each other on similar or aligned agendas. The goal was to unite for arguable progress in all those areas. As a result of the horror I and the other co-founders of HEAL experienced in response to the realization of how great the threat of fraud and abuse in segregated congregate care was to children, youth, and families, we made exposing that issue our top priority.

When I graduated the University of Washington in 2005, HEAL moved off-campus and continued our efforts as a volunteer activist network. We asked ourselves "How can we stop and/or prevent institutionalized abuse in segregated congregate care?" There were many discussions and ideas. And, to one degree or another all of them were explored and/or tried. Some legislative appeals, some working with proper authorities, some filing civil lawsuits, some raising awareness through public information campaigns, some protests, and some going above and beyond to pretend those on the watch-list weren't criminal and were simply ignorant or negligent and needed guidance from ASTART, etc.

And, that's typically how people go about trying to solve any problem or dispute. We consider the reality of the situation, and in this case it is fraud and abuse in segregated congregate care. We considered the options available to address that problem within legal limits. And, we decisively took action.

The primary model we've employed is very similar, though virtual, more subtle and artful compared to the entities populating the watch-list. And, ours involves a sense of humor

to an extent. And, the best possible outcome would be that we prove the model works to create positive change and the worst outcome from our perspective would be no change because many of us are survivors and firsthand victims of institutionalized abuse and as direct victims we insist the fraud and abuse stop and if it doesn't we're going to do everything in our power to see that it does one way or another to protect the public. Dorothy Law Nolte says, "Children learn what they live" and often live what they learn. So, if trying to build the "perfect beast" maybe they succeeded.

This research study and report may be considered anecdotal evidence at best. It is based on over 20 years of activism, advocacy, observation, and investigative reporting in good faith.

### The Primary Model:

The primary model employed in secular terms would be virtual behavior modification (including some aversive techniques) and in religious terms conversion "therapy" applied to those who use that model in the material world. The steps involved in placement and "graduation" have not significantly been altered over time. And, the primary way HEAL (aka the HEAL Mission of COPE Ministries) and COPE Ministries is different is that we hold ourselves to the same standards we apply to others in regards to Honesty In Marketing which is the standard bearer and means for "graduation" from our virtual behavior modification/conversion program for frauds, hypocrites, human traffickers, and those engaging in institutionalized abuse.

### THE STEPS

1. Enrollment: Enrollment occurs when one or more former clients (parents, youth, or adults) submit a complaint to us alleging fraud, abuse, wrongful death, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking about a cult, entity, or segregated congregate care provider. We accept such enrollments without a court order and without consulting the accused for their side. Based on our own experiences with the population involved, we reasonably believe and/or assume they engage in deceptive marketing, misleading advertising, fraud, and therefore they have no credibility and consulting them for their perspective would arguably be a waste of time. They should already be aware of why or how they might be enrolled as a result of their own misconduct and reasonably would appear to be feigning ignorance to avoid accountability or otherwise defiant in regards to placement under such circumstances.
2. Placement and Observation: Once enrolled, they are placed on the active public watch-list which focuses solely on their misconduct without consideration for full context which would include their arguable side or position. We disclose that we solely focus on the risks rather than any alleged benefits on the mission homepage.
3. Research and Investigative Reporting: Where we begin with one or two complaints, we seek to validate and verify those complaints through public records requests,

welcoming additional victims to share their experiences, and build a profile focused solely on risk assessment.

4. Feedback/Clarification: Unlike the other behavior modification and/or conversion programs, we recognize our own fallibility and provide means for correcting factual errors, adding commentary (critical or complimentary), and a meaningful way to hold us accountable too in order to encourage mutual respect and open discourse.

5. Graduation: No one enrolled has yet met the Honesty In Marketing standards besides ourselves and technically we've never been enrolled in our watch-list program and simply hold ourselves to the same standards we hold others.

#### Results:

Those populating the watch-list do not care for the placement and disagree with it. They find it is unfair and unjust. Many simply flat out refuse to recognize our authority to have a watch-list or criticize them to any extent. The vast majority respond that way. A few, including Eagle Ranch Academy, Sacred Breath Academy, and Abundant Life Academy have actually created their own websites to "attack", smear, and criticize me and HEAL (aka HEAL Mission of COPE Ministries). Eagle Ranch Academy thought better of it and took theirs down following our complaint to their ISP. Abundant Life Academy's site (healonlineurvivors.com), I now own and it redirects to the HEAL Mission site now. David Bolthouse still operates healonlinerevealed.com and we believe Sacred Breath Academy's heal-online.exposed is still up as well. To me, this shows that it is to be expected that where someone has been placed or enrolled in a placement with which they disagree that it is likely they will create campaigns against the provider of services and reinforce the divisiveness and/or arguable injustice by escalating hostilities rather than seek proper redress of grievances where available or offered.

Craig Rogers of Abundant Life Academy has emphatically warned others on the watch-list through his own blog and posts not to trust us, not to interact with us, and to see any offer for open dialogue as a trap where we are simply seeking more information to use against them and insincere in our claims of willingness to consider additional information. I believe the dialogue with BioDynamic Breath and Trauma Release Inc available on the Feedback page on the church site shows that we are willing to consider additional information and will remove entities from the watch-list under certain conditions even where they've not met the requirements for "graduation" or placement on the Honesty In Marketing standards page. There are dozens of providers we've been asked to research where we've had no complaints about them that we've only briefly enrolled and released upon further examination or clarification.

However, this model is horribly flawed and escalates division and tensions resulting in more of the enrolled dying than graduating. There are now more populating the virtual cemetery for dead programs (entities previously enrolled on our watch-list) than populating the active watch-list. So, from one perspective you might see their demise as evidence of our efficacy as advocates and activists in exposing and closing fraudulent and abusive entities. And, certainly the victims who didn't get justice through another means

for any number of reasons find that comforting. But, as a virtual macrocosm of the material microcosm of the model used by those populating the watch-list, it suggests the model is overall destructive in nature so should be avoided unless actually seeking to destroy the enrolled. And, for all of us who survive attempts to destroy us, we fight back or die trying unless more of a "flight" response to fear or perceived threats which can manifest in a controlled environment as delusions (magical thinking, escapism) or being severely withdrawn/uncommunicative.

The good news is, we'll graduate anyone who meets the Honesty In Marketing requirements regardless of any personal history of discord between us. And, we consider additional facts, verify facts, and validate everyone to the extent available information supports it. So, as a transitional tool it may result in positive change for the enrolled if they can find the resolve to stop resisting treatment and be open to change. And, if you are enrolled and you find all of this to suggest hubris, arrogance, and certainly nothing you should consider or respect, you now understand how everyone enrolled in your program feels about you and that their resistance or hostility is a natural response and/or consequence resulting from your approach.

So, as far as incremental change to the secular behavior modification and/or religious conversion models, just start by meeting the Honesty In Marketing standards and we'll leave you alone or recognize your progress depending on your preference. And, if you believe that that level of honesty in marketing would kill your business anyway, what does that say about you? It says you belong on the watch-list unless your own reasoning to support your own model is flawed proving your hypocrisy and reinforcing our position. As a private church and mission, you could argue we have no civil right nor civic duty to operate such a watch-list given your findings it is unjust where you would prefer such be handled by proper authorities. And, as private entities yourself, all your victims who weren't adjudicated can argue the same thing. And, everyone is right to an extent. But, we have the right via the First Amendment to do this virtually as we do it and see it as our civic duty to help protect the public this way. However, false imprisonment in tort and kidnapping charges for involuntary placements without a court order in your programs has been the fate of legal guardians who trusted that your recognition of their authority where it didn't exist for such a placement resulted in their being victims where they failed to exercise due diligence or common sense. So, rather than deescalating and addressing risk, you are compounding it exponentially for all parties involved as a business model where you claim to do the exact opposite proving false advertising/fraud reinforcing our position and the watch-list.

In trying to reach you, we're using your language, model, and methods. And, in many ways we're getting the same results you do. So, the method is destructive overall and if that isn't the intent or purpose, then it has so few miraculous successes that those appear to be flukes or dumb luck and not a result of the model employed. If it is the intent or purpose, that reinforces the watch-list and reveals your own hypocrisy if you protest placement while assuming authority to accept involuntary enrollments without a court order yourself. If you don't understand the art of this, read the complete works of Franz Kafka.