

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: Trails Carolina in NC
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 11/10/21

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 25 separate complaints from individuals and families alleging use of “escorts”/transporters/kidnappers for hire, traumatic experiences, strip/body cavity searches, exposure (to extreme temperatures), food deprivation, child abuse, regulatory violations, neglect, coercive thought reform, one parent of a survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “My daughter just came home after eight weeks at a residential “camp” in North Carolina. We are shocked and appalled by her experience, which reads much as your account online. We signed forms saying we wouldn’t ever speak out against them in any way, for any reason for the rest of our lives I guess, under monetary penalty by the program. How do we pursue action then? My lovely child is now acting like someone who has just come out of a cult. We are getting more therapy now by our beloved counselor for this but are worried for her and for our relationship as well,” rape (of "student" by "student"), censored/monitored/restricted communication (held incommunicado), and survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “They did not provide enough gear to keep us warm and falsely ensured our parents that we had plenty of warm clothes; however, me and another girl got frost bite on our toes. They told our parents we could be inside if the temperatures dropped below 20 degrees, they never did this. I had knee surgery a couple of months before and they forced me to go directly against my doctors orders causing meniscus damage. They refused to let me see a doctor for 2 months, until it got to the point where I couldn't walk. I had to hike with a 75+ pound pack using STICKS as crutches. I have nerve damage from that. They crossed out anything that made it seem like we were being mistreated in our letters to our parents. I had an ear infection and my therapist, Shalene Pierce, threatened to make me stay longer unless I signed a paper saying that my ear wasn't infected even though it clearly was. She used forms of manipulation and threats to "change" the kids into who she wanted them to be. I had never self harmed or had suicidal thoughts before coming to trails, but I left there with a lot of scars. If you told people you weren't being treated right you would be punished and forced to stay in the program longer. This place lies to parents and doesn't treat kids right. Please help me put an end to any children who are suffering because of this program” at Trails Carolina. 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 11/2/21 Rev. Angela Smith invited Trails Carolina victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

"Dear Trails Carolina Survivors and Families,

Trails Carolina Family of Programs (Trails Carolina) 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/trailscnc.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 Trails Carolina was in 2021 (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 11 years in North Carolina. 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, November 10th, 2021 at 8pm Pacific if you wish to provide one rather than have a progress report posted at that time. 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 Trails Carolina 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/trailsnc.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, 2032, Trails Carolina 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 Trails Carolina should remain on the watch-list initiated on April 5th, 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 Trails Carolina, 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/trailsnc.htm> .