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Waypoint Academy (2013-present) Huntsville, UT*Residential Treatment Center***History and Background Information**

Waypoint Academy (formerly known as Green Valley Academy) is an [Ascent Company](#) behavior modification program that opened in March of 2013. It is marketed as a Residential Treatment Center for teenage boys between the ages of 13 and 18. Waypoint claims to treat boys with severe anxiety and related disorders (Social Anxiety, Generalized Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Attacks, Agoraphobia, and Body Dysmorphic Disorder). The program has a maximum enrollment of 44, and the average length of stay is reported to be 10-12 months. Waypoint has been a [NATSAP](#) member since 2013.

Waypoint Academy is located at [9091 E 100 S, Huntsville, UT 84317](#). Waypoint also operates a program for young adults (18+) which is located about 15 miles away in a suburban home at [1528 27th St, Ogden, UT 84403](#).

Early on in the planning process, the founders of Waypoint Academy stated during meetings with the planning commission that the program would be geared towards low-risk "Forest Gump" type kids. Specifically, the program would accept teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other similar disorders. However, when Waypoint eventually opened, they decided that they would accept primarily teens with Anxiety disorders. They currently make no mention of Autism Spectrum Disorder on their website.

Founders and Notable Staff

Jared Balmer is one of the founders of Waypoint Academy. He began his career by co-founding the Rivendell Psychiatric Hospital. He later helped open several other [Aspen Education Group](#) programs, including [Island View RTC](#), the [Oakley School](#) and the [Aspen Institute For Behavioral Assessment](#), which was a branch of Island View. In 2006, he was the recipient of the [NATSAP](#) Leadership Award. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of [NATSAP](#).

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He previously worked as the Clinical Director of the [Sams, Sam's](#) for six years prior to working at the Hope Institute.

R. Jeffrey Simpson is one of the founders of Waypoint Academy. He previously helped co-found [Uinta Academy](#). He also served on the Board of Directors of [NATSAP](#) in 2013.

Bryan Wilde is the current Associate Executive Director and Residential Director of Waypoint Academy. His career in the Troubled Teen Industry began when he worked as a Therapist at the notorious and confirmed abusive [Island View RTC](#) from 1998 until 2000. He then went on to work in several different fields, including human resources, outpatient counseling, call center/technology services, a dairy company, and private practice counseling. He began working at Waypoint Academy in 2016.

Cheyenne Liang is the current Clinical Director of Waypoint Academy. Her prior places of employment are presently unknown, although she has reportedly worked as a Therapist in multiple residential settings. One of these residential programs was an adult rehabilitation center called Brighton Recovery Center.

Bryan Shores currently works as a Therapist at Waypoint Academy. He began his career in the TTI working as a Therapist at the reportedly abusive [Outback Therapeutic Expeditions](#) from 2019 until 2020. He then worked at the reportedly abusive [Uinta Academy](#) as a Therapist from 2020 until joining Waypoint Academy in 2022.

Paige Brooks currently works as a Therapist at Waypoint Academy. Her career in the TTI began when she worked as a Counselor at the reportedly abusive [Catalyst RTC](#) from 2016 until 2020. She then began working as an RN and Medical Coordinator at Catalyst until 2021, when she joined Waypoint.

Kevin Jeffs worked as a Counselor at Waypoint Academy. In January of 2019, he was [arrested](#) after attempting to meet who he believed to be an 13-year-old girl for sex. Instead, Jeffs had been texting with a police officer, who promptly arrested Jeffs when the two had scheduled to meet. Jeffs was taken into custody and booked into the Davis County Jail on suspicion of enticing a teen by internet or text. It appears that Jeffs did not have any real victims (luckily).

Program Structure

Like other behavior modification programs, Waypoint Academy uses a level-system. However, the levels are unknown.

Little is known about the program at Waypoint Academy. Survivors report that they are given very little free-time and freedom. Survivors have also reported that [attack therapy](#) and shame-therapy are used as part of the treatment model.

Abuse Allegations & Lawsuits

In late 2013, it was reported that a resident at Waypoint Academy stole one of Waypoint's minivans during an attempted escape from the facility. He was located by police officers shortly after abandoning the minivan and hiding in a nearby field. He was then kicked out of Waypoint Academy and placed in Archway Youth Service Center while his parents looked for another residential program for him.

In 2017, Tamlyn Allred filed a lawsuit against Waypoint Academy and one of its employees, Dillon Peterson, after Peterson collided with her vehicle and caused her multiple injuries. The lawsuit claimed Negligence against Peterson, and Negligent Entrustment and Negligent Hiring/Training/Retention against Waypoint Academy. The ruling in this suit is presently unknown.

In January of 2019, a 26-year-old youth counselor at Waypoint Academy, [Kevin Scott Jeffs](#), was [arrested](#) after attempting to meet who he believed to be an 13-year-old girl for sex. Instead, Jeffs had been texting with a police officer, who promptly arrested Jeffs when the two had scheduled to meet. Jeffs was taken into custody and booked into the Davis County Jail on

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Survivor/Parent Testimonials

May 2022: (SURVIVOR) "I was at waypoint for 11 months in 2017-18 There's so many parents here leaving reviews talking about their sons experience when a student's experience was always very different from the parents that came to visit. When A parent was touring the school the staff were much harsher and made sure we made the place look perfect in order to sell them. I recall the head of admissions asking the staff to move a kid that was having a severe panic attack so that the parent visiting wouldn't see it. My assigned "therapist" was trying to treat me with magic crystals, giving me amethyst and some obsidian. That's not treatment. Mike would have these hour long "meetings" where he'd just grill some kid in front of everyone about all the stuff they're doing wrong. Staff often started the job being very nice and caring for the kids but would become power hungry and abuse their ability to take any and all privileges away. After I broke my leg on a home visit and when back after surgery they made no effort to get me the physical therapy or doctors visits I needed my parent made the decision to pull me after 11 months and Mike tried to guilt them into making me stay saying they were gonna ruin me. If I gained anything from waypoint it was the ability to push myself to do more than I would let myself do before and that can be attributed solely to the Steven, the dorm head and gym coach at the time. Unfortunately I don't see him on the staff page of the website anymore." - [Sean \(Google Reviews\)](#)

October 2020: (SURVIVOR) "I was a student at waypoint for under a year and I would like to share my experiences here to discourage sending your son here. I came to waypoint because of issues with my family and having an unhealthy life style. From the first time I got to waypoint, there was a sort of cult like atmosphere. The leaders of this culture are the therapists, mainly Mike Bulloch. For example, every Wednesday there are re-enactment groups where students relive traumatic experiences in their life. My therapist pressured me into doing one when I didn't feel comfortable with it. On top of that, the scene was far from the truth and fit into my therapists reality rather than mine. On a real note though, the therapists will get certain kids to back them up because they can persuade them. I went through this whole place and was ridiculed by staff and students alike and have come out with very bad self esteem issues. Before waypoint I had friends I was very close to and after, I could barely talk to them due to how worried I was about my wrongdoings. Even now, I feel like I make so many mistakes and don't think I can overcome it. I became institutionalized and would hope your son doesn't become the same way. Worst experience of my life and please please please don't send your son here." - [Anonymous \(Google Reviews\)](#)

8/12/2020: (SURVIVOR) "From a students perspective. Not a healthy place to be as an young boy suffering with anxiety and depression. The owner Mike Bullock uses shame as a treatment technique- for example, he will hold large groups surrounding one boy while belittling and shaming him in front of others. Many of my friends there have developed deeper suicidal thoughts after experiencing this among other strange treatment practices. Employees are a high turnover, most quit within 3 months of hire leaving the boys without a consistent basis of support." - [Amadeus \(Yelp\)](#)

2018: (SURVIVOR) "I was sent to waypoint academy when I was struggling to deal with mental ailments in my late teenage years. The only good thing I can say about waypoint was that I left in a better state than I entered. But, I do not believe this was even close to the best way for me to combat my personal problems. There is no personal freedom in this place. While the face of waypoint displays a happy free space for kids to learn and grow, it is no such thing. It is a facility where at no point do you have freedom to be unsupervised. Teenagers, even 18 year old adults, at waypoint are watched like toddlers in a daycare. Every single significant thing any patient says at waypoint is logged so that all staff can keep tabs on the patients. The lack of personal freedom and privacy is not the only issue at this facility. The owner, Mike Bulloch, is more interested in the image of the business and "proven treatment process" than the individuals needs. When one patient I knew personally was nearing the end of his treatment and was in a very stable mental condition waypoint received a phone call from the boys father. I'm the phone call his father communicated that the boy's mother was in the hospital with a possibly lethal heart condition. When the boy, and his father, requested that the boy may have a leave of absence to visit his mother, Mike himself denied this request. This is because this request was outside the parameters of the treatment process and Mike was worried that the interaction would cause him anxiety. While the boys mother luckily lived, he missed what could have been the last chance to see her. After this whole interaction the same boy's father thought his son was stable and ready to return home. This boy had treatment prior to waypoint and at this point in his treatment maintained admirable mental stability and control. Mike did not

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seems to have been, while threatened the father by saying he would legally hold the boy, where by asserting that the boy was currently a danger to himself or others and that he needed to be kept in a mental health facility like waypoint. This whole episode nearly ended in a very expensive lawsuit, but a deal was worked out that frankly neither the boy nor the father were happy with. Do not send your child to waypoint. If you send your child to waypoint neither you nor your child will have the freedom or power over your sons life you will have on the outside. If your child needs serious help there are outpatient programs everywhere that can help your son work through the issues he's facing. Sending your son to waypoint puts his freedom in the hands of Mike Bulloch, a business man interested in self growth, not your child's happiness and wellbeing. Waypoint is not the solution" - [Decker \(Google Reviews\)](#)

Related Media

[Waypoint Academy Website Homepage](#)

[Green Valley Academy changes name to Waypoint Academy](#) (Ogden Valley Utah Forum, 12/21/2012)

[Troubled Youth Steals Van and Escapes From Waypoint Academy](#) (Ogden Valley Utah Forum, 12/19/2013)

[Neighbors upset with arrival of home for teens](#) (Fox 13, 5/7/2014)

[Police: Youth Counselor Tried To Meet With Teen For Sex](#) (KSL, 1/25/2019)

[WayPoint Academy Joins the Ascent Family of Programs](#) (NewsWire, 8/18/2022)

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