

Buckheit, James**2618****RECEIVED**

From: PGAPEER@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2007 2:08 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Comments Chapter 14

2007 JUL 30 AM 10:13

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

Thank you for this opportunity to present comments on proposed 22PA Code Chapter 14 reference # 6-306(2618).

For the past four years I have served the parents of Lower Merion School District as the President of the Committee for Special Education. This organization was started over 30 years ago by parents whose sons and daughters were unable to attend public school because IDEA had not yet been written. I also serve as the founder of a grouping of similar school district parent groups in Montgomery County. There are 22 school districts in Montgomery County, only 7 have parent groups pertaining to special education. It is difficult for parents to give input on such pressing matters when school districts are unable to disseminate information to the parents and students that they serve. No school district parent group in Montgomery County received information from school district administration to submit comments on Chapter 14.

Our concern is for the regulations regarding the use of physically coercive techniques. Many children who are restrained do not have the skills or knowledge to explain what has precipitated or aggravated a situation leading up to the use of the physical coercive technique.

We support the elimination of the provision that defines a restraint as something that lasts at least 30 seconds in a row.

We advocate for the parental/guardian permission for restraint to be used before the actual restraint is necessary. At the IEP or during the development of a behavioral plan parents should be informed and educated as to the type of restraint that could be used. Parents should have the right for informed consent or refusal of any physical restraint.

We support the notification of parents and a chance to meet with school personnel whenever a restraint has been used.

Prohibit the use of prone (face-down) restraints.

Support the new provisions that clarify the rules on "least restrictive environment."

We would add the necessity for teacher and staff training on the use of positive behavior interventions, as referenced in IDEA 2004, Sec.300.34, Sec. 614, Sec. 654. There would not be an issue with the need for many restraints if school personnel were trained and skilled in alternative means of behavioral intervention.

Thank you for this opportunity,
 Pamela Grossman, OTR, M.Ed
 Committee for Special Education – Lower Merion
 Montgomery County Special Education Cooperative

President,
 Founder,

7/26/2007