



LIVENGRIN

Foundation for Addiction Recovery

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 14, 2008

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Janice Staloski, Director
Bureau of Community Program Licensure
and Certification
Pennsylvania Department of Health
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Dear Ms. Staloski:

This letter is written to express Livengrin Foundation's opposition to the Department of Health's proposed regulation regarding confidentiality of information and treatment records for patients with drug and alcohol addiction. (Department of Health, Proposed Regulation 10-186).

The stigma attached to the diseases of drug addiction and alcoholism make it very difficult for families and those affected to seek help. These proposed regulations would go beyond our current state regulations (255.5) and allow for third party payers, insurers and government agencies to have access to "more" personal and private information. This certainly does not appear to benefit those with an addiction or their suffering families. It only seems to provide another barrier to someone's ability to seek help while maintaining their dignity, self respect and integrity.

Addicts and alcoholics struggle to stand up for themselves and to protect their rights to privacy. We see no benefit to allowing additional personal information in the hands of non-treatment, non-clinical agencies.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Curran
Director of Business Development

/t

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