

GAUDENZIA, Inc.

EASTERN REGION OFFICE
1306 Spring Garden Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 238-0623 Fax: (215) 238-0712

Robert P. Kelly
Chairman of the Board

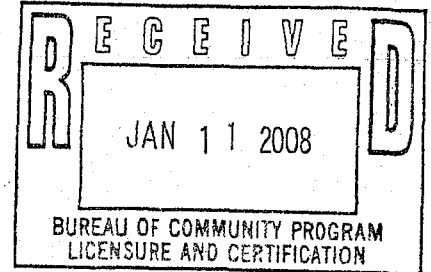
Michael Harle, M.H.S.
President/Executive Director

A United Way Donor Option Agency

Jan. 11, 2008

2654

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



Dear Ms. Staloski;

I would like to submit my comments on the proposed changes in the regulations regarding the confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment information. The proposed changes are not in the best interest of our clients and should not be adopted. There is much danger that these changes will expose in-depth client information to people that it should not be given to, specifically those other than the people who are treating the clients.

Last year in March, when it was proposed to rescind Pa. Code 255.5 altogether, I also objected. I have attached that letter because the reasons I opposed that proposal are the same as why I oppose the current proposed changes. Also, the proposed regulations do not adequately justify the release of additional information on clients. I do not see how the additional invasion of privacy is going to be beneficial to clients.

Clients are less likely to seek treatment if there a risk that their private data is going to be viewed by people other than those who are trying to help them. We must remember that is the reason 255.5 was established in the first place – so that insurance companies and other entities would not be receiving more information than they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Link
Eastern Region Director

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2008 JAN 23 AM 9:33

RECEIVED