

2654

Gelnett, Wanda B.

From: Schalles, Scott R.
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 7:38 AM
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.
Subject: FW: Confidentiality Amendments

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Public comment on 2654. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen McQuarrie [mailto:allen@clanmcq.com]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2008 3:39 PM
To: Schalles, Scott R.
Subject: Confidentiality Amendments

Scott Schalles:

As you may know by now, PRO-ACT sent a letter to which you may refer opposing the confidentiality amendments. What has us concerned most in recent days is the fact that so many people who are supposed to review such amendments were completely bypassed. Many who were supposed to get correspondence about the amendments were not given the correspondence if reports are accurate concerning the lack of transparency.

Those who are in charge of this initiative apparently do not regard themselves to be forthrightly accountable to anyone. This is not our first experience with the Department of Health's failure to regard the work of others as valid, worth considering and useful in the deliberative process. This is not merely a matter of having a bruised ego. There are some very serious problems within the addiction treatment profession that have been left unattended, completely ignored or shelved indefinitely.

The pending impact is daunting, growing worse and will become a very serious crisis in the very near future. On top of that, the recent effort to amend the confidentiality code without transparency, full disclosure, open deliberation and sharing of concerns is a formidable example of inept behavior with serious consequences for those responsible for providing addiction prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support.

We see this as a serious breach of confidence in those responsible for the stewardship of services to those seeking recovery and their family members. We are also concerned about the impact on social institutions, law enforcement, public education, the community and fiscal prudence. We request a meeting to discuss our concerns with relevant parties in order to make recommendations to change the way business is conducted. I will forward you an email that I sent to a select few that you may review.

Allen McQuarrie
Co-chair, PRO-ACT, Bucks County
Chair, Southeast Pennsylvania Regional PRO-ACT Public Policy Committee