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ADDICTION MEDICINE AND HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 1200 Wainut Street, Second Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)545-8078 FAX(215)545-5060 RECEIVED DEPT OF HEALTH

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February 15, 2008

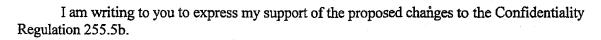
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BUREAU OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Calvin B. Johnson, M.D.
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
8th Floor West Health and Welfare Building
P.O. Box 90
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Secretary Johnson:



Addiction Medicine And Health Advocates (AMHA) has been in business as a Licensed Narcotics Treatment Program for over 25 years and we have struggled each and every year with the problem associated with 255.5b. With these proposed changes, it will make it less difficult to secure approvals and authorization from managed care organizations. Additionally, these changes will make it much easier to share information with other health and human service systems that are crucial to the benefit of our patients. Furthermore, the patient's confidentiality rights will continue to be protected by federal regulations 42 CPR (which impose restrictions on both the disclosure and the use of information about individuals receiving drug and alcohol services), HIPAA, and other Pennsylvania state regulations. In fact, the federal regulations provide among the most stringent patient protections in the entire health care system.

Finally, my program will not be cited each and every year for violating the Confidentiality Regulations because of sharing needed and appropriate information with patient consent.

Thank you for all your efforts to make this needed change.

Yours truly,

Robert Holmes, MSW, LCSW, BCD, CAS

Executive Director