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Keth



CAMERON/ELK COUNTIES MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM

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March 11, 2008

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

Estelle Richman, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
333 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

*3/13/08
FYI
C: Dutton
Kopelman
Mitchell
BLR*

Dear Secretaries:

Though the formal comment period has passed for the proposed D&A Confidentiality Regulations (Reg. #10-186), I feel compelled to voice my concerns.

At a meeting last week of the Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania, (the regional 23 county group of MH and D&A Administrators in the Health Choices North Central Option Zone) we had extensive discussion regarding these proposed regulations and their potential very negative impact on people receiving D&A services. One of our members suggested we review the IRRC comments published in the March 1, 2008 PA Bulletin for a clear and objective presentation of the issues.

Following the discussion, I did read the IRRC comments and certainly feel more informed than I had been before.

The issues raised by IRRC (and others) are substantive and alarming. I want to add my voice to other commentators, and strongly urge you to withdraw those proposed regulations so that the issues and concerns raised are completely and fully addressed. Additionally, this revision should be done in full coordination with those bodies and organizations having the "up close and personal" experience with the real impact on real people these regulations will have.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely,

Cynthia N. Zembryki
Administrator

pc: Joan Erney, OMHSAS