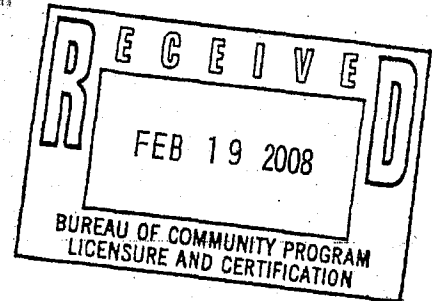


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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

#2654

February 15, 2008

Ms. Janice Staloski, Director
Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification
Department of Health
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104-1579

Dear Ms. Staloski,


The National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA) supports the proposed amendments to 4 Pa Code Section 255.5 (b). NASW-PA is a membership organization representing 6,100 professional social workers in the Commonwealth.

NASW-PA commends the changes made by the proposed regulations and agrees this change is in the public interest. NASW promotes intervention and treatment programs reflecting the interrelationships among substance abusers and additional problems such as economic difficulties, poor health, and mental illness. It is recognized that because alcohol and other substance related disorders are multifaceted, treatment approaches should be comprehensive and integrated to meet the multiple needs of the diverse population served.

Efforts by the Department of Health to preserve the level of confidentiality needed to protect the client while allowing enough information to be shared to assure quality treatment, continuity of care and the highest quality of life possible are supported by NASW-PA.

NASW-PA also endorses the position of the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association and commends them for their work to change these regulations for the benefit of the client and the providers.

Sincerely,



Jamie Buchenauer, Director of Government and Public Relations