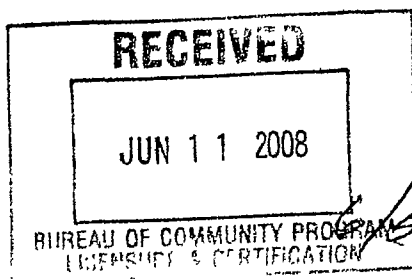




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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms Stalocki,

I would like to express support of the proposed regulation amendment of the client confidentiality provisions for clients who are receiving drug and alcohol services. The § 255.5 (b) regulations make it difficult to obtain necessary approvals/authorizations for payment from insurance companies/MCO's for care for these clients who need medications and care in a timely manner to prevent death and contracting diseases, AIDs etc for clients who's symptoms involve denying and thinking that nothing is wrong w them.

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I am a physician who has treated patients with "real" diseases like pneumonia, and I now treat patients with mental "unreal" diseases.

in a disease like pneumonia I can take a temperature and some X-rays and blood work and demonstrate to the patient who feels ill and demonstrate to the insurance co. that indeed the patient needs this level of care and that antibiotic.

in a patient with a disease like schizophrenia and alcohol dependence will know that it is the marijuana (for instance) making them sick and deny alcohol use at all. Actually getting the patient to recognize that it is alcohol making them forget to take medications that keep the marijuana away is half the battle. Give us the tools. Thank you

Ruth Covington  
psychiatrist  
Eagleville Hospital

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