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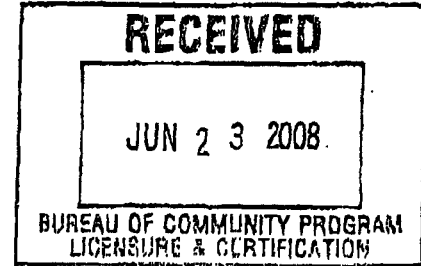
VALLEY FORGE  
MEDICAL CENTER  
& HOSPITAL

2008 JUN 26 PM 2:16

2654 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

June 20, 2008

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



Via Fax: 717-787-3188

Dear Ms. Staloski;

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to the client confidentiality provisions of 4 PA Code § 255.5(b), as posted on the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure's website.

Valley Forge Medical Center and Hospital has provided services to drug and/or alcohol addicted patients for more than thirty years. We have found that the confidentiality regulations as currently written make it difficult to obtain appropriate authorizations from insurance companies and managed care reviewers. By contrast, the draft revisions do a good job in balancing the need to protect confidential personal information while allowing treatment facilities to provide, with the patient's consent, the limited amounts of information needed to obtain insurance coverage.

We also note the revisions made to the section covering what may be released to a probation or parole officer with the patient's written consent. These changes should enable us to work with probation and parole officers to obtain better outcomes for our patients.

We appreciate the work your office has done in making these long overdue changes to the confidentiality regulations.

Sincerely,

Frederick D. Jackes  
Assistant Administrator