

GAUDENZIA FOUNDATION, INC.

#2654

Richard M. Bockol
Chairman of the Board

Michael Harle, M.H.S.
President/Executive Director

1910 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

(717) 238-4200 • Fax (717) 238-9206

July 1, 2008

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

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DIVISION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL
PROGRAM LICENSURE

Dear Ms. Staloski,

I've been following recent events about proposed changes to existing regulations regarding the confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records. I'm not pleased with the developments and I believe that concerns are not being addressed.

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that I sent previously dated January 11, 2008.

As the Central Region Director of the largest non-profit provider of drug and alcohol treatment in the Commonwealth and as a professional with more than 35 years of drug and alcohol treatment and prevention experience, I know that clients can not afford to have their personal information at risk and that it is imperative that we secure confidentiality at all costs for the individuals that we serve.

I urge you to leave the regulations as they are.

Sincerely,

David Stockton
Central Region Director
Gaudenzia

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Helping people help themselves since 1968

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GAUDENZIA, INC.
Central Region Office

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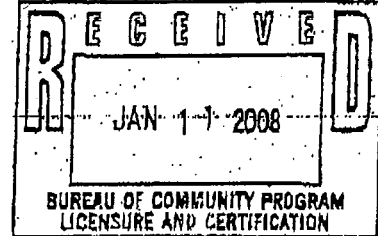
Robert P. Kelly
Chairman of the Board

Michael Harris, M.H.S.
President/Executive Director

1910 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103
Jan. 11, 2008

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION (717) 238-4200 • Fax (717) 238-9206

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



Dear Ms. Staloski:

As the Central Region Director of Gaudenzia, I must strongly urge that we do not adopt the proposed changes to the confidentiality regulations regarding drug and alcohol records. We know that stigmatism is a prominent factor in preventing people from seeking treatment when they need it, and I cannot imagine why we would want to increase the amount of data available to entities outside of the treatment agency.

To say that this additional data would benefit clients is not backed up by an explanation of how it would. Clients will have more of their personal information at risk for being seen by people who simply don't need to see it - or worse - may use it to deny them treatment.

I am in charge of several treatment programs in Central Pennsylvania, and from my perspective, the proposed regulations are not logical and will not produce greater access to treatment.

I had the same reaction to last year's proposal to rescind 255.5, and I am attaching that letter because it explains my reasons why we should not loosen the restrictions on client confidentiality.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Stockton
Central Region Director