

WHITE DEER RUN

Committed to Excellence

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July 7, 2008

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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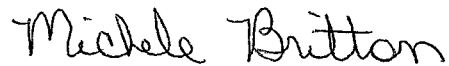
Dear Ms. Staloski,

I am writing you today due to my concern over the proposed changes in Act 255.5. I am not in recovery, nor have I served in a clinical capacity. Thus my knowledge in this field has come thru experience and the knowledge that others have shared with me. One of the things that is impassioned in the drug and alcohol field by those in recovery and those serving this population is the need to maintain strict conditionality. As an "outsider" I once questioned this, but I don't any longer. Having marketed in this field now for 13 years I am very aware of how information is used to deny treatment, deny payment of treatment and generally scare people away from treatment in states that don't have such strict confidentiality laws. Is that what we want to happen in Pennsylvania?

Specifically I am concerned that the latest draft still hasn't addressed the concerns of the recovery community as brought to the attention of the Advisory Council in April. Under the new draft, definitions are so ambiguous that the role of the government and payer is confused with the role of those providing the treatment. This will open up the door for the payer of treatment to supercede the judgment of the professional in determining treatment. Once again I have to ask, is this what we want to happen for the residence of Pennsylvania? Who among us could look at a loved one and tell them they were denied treatment due to a change in a law that we helped change?

Ms. Staloski I firmly believe that this is a case where the good of the few does not, can not, outweigh the good of the many. The proposed changes will significantly weaken thousands of Pennsylvanians ability to seek treatment in a confidential, dignified and funded manor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Britton". The script is cursive and fluid.

Michele Britton

CC:

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Representative Frank Oliver

Senator Edwin Erickson

Senator Vincent Hughes

Representative George Kenny

Jerry Rhodes, President, CRC Health, Recovery Division

Deb Beck, President, DASPOP