

2654

July 2, 2008

Janice Staloski, Director
Bureau of Community Program Licensure & Certification
Department of Health
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Fax: 717-787-3188

Dear Ms. Staloski,

Please record that the undersigned Social Workers are opposed to the Department of Health's Proposed Regulation No. 10-186 regarding confidentiality of drug and alcohol patient records.

The proposed changes will substantially weaken vitally important drug and alcohol confidentiality regulations that currently protect vulnerable people and their embarrassed families seeking help with drug and alcohol problems.

Alcohol and other drug addiction is a highly stigmatized disease. As social workers who work every day directly with chemically dependent people and their families, we are extremely concerned about the confidentiality of the information that is shared within the sanctity of the client/counselor relationship.

We note that numerous individuals and organizations representing people in recovery from this illness have written to the Department of Health to oppose the proposed regulation. The statewide Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance and the local recovery groups have joined over 140 groups, individuals and elected officials to express opposition.

The proposed changes will result in persons being asked unnecessary and highly personal questions about things such as historic trauma and detailed family history information that are not needed to approve funding under current placement criteria, regulations and laws. Forcing people to reveal such deeply personal information is inconsistent with the value we place on the dignity and worth of the individuals and families served.

Surely in this debate over privacy of personal information, the opinions of families afflicted with the illness must be honored, respected and given primacy over managed care and insurance companies.

We proudly add our names to those who are opposed to the proposed weakening of state confidentiality protections of drug and alcohol records.

We urge the Department to withdraw them.

Thank you,

cc: Scott Schalles, Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Fax: 717-283-2664

RECEIVED
2008 JUL 22 AM 8:49
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RECEIVED
JUL 14 2008
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Social Worker Opposed to Department of Health's Proposed Regulation No. 10-186 that would weaken confidentiality of drug and alcohol addiction treatment patient records;

Name ~~Margie Thompson-Cradock~~ Credentials MWS
Street Address Margie Thompson-Cradock
Gaudenzia, Inc
City 1300 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA
Signature Margie Thompson-Cradock