

June 26, 2008

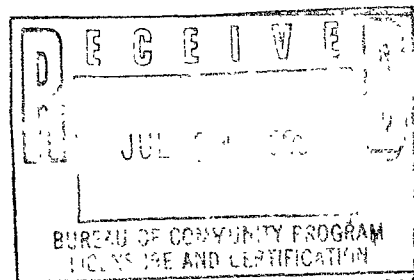
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Janice Staloski, Director
Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification
Pennsylvania Department of Health
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104-1579

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



Dear Janice Staloski:

I would like to express my concerns to the proposed changes to 4 PA Code Section 255.5, the state confidentiality regulations that presently protect the confidentiality information of patients and families seeking help for addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The confidentiality laws currently in place have provided sufficient protection to individuals and families for many years, by restricting health and law enforcement agencies from information that could be used against persons in need of addiction treatment services. The current code protects the patient's right to confidentiality and strengthens their ability to seek treatment services, without the fear of reprisal and disapproval of others. The proposed changes will diminish the intent of the law by expanding the amount of information treatment providers will be able to give to outside entities.

Individuals seeking treatment for their addiction have a fundamental right to privacy and it is imperative that they have the ability to maintain that privacy throughout their treatment experience. The current confidentiality law aids a person seeking treatment to move forward in their recovery process with assurance that any information provided to others will not be used to incriminate or hinder their rehabilitation process in any way.

We believe the proposed changes will discourage persons seeking recovery from being completely honest about who they are and what has happened to them in their past. This information is vital to the recovery process and most sacred to those in recovery. As a registered voter and recovering person, it is my hope that the proposed changes will not be accepted and the present confidentiality regulations remain in tact.

Additional Comments:

In my 19 year of continued sobriety I have seen how being honest about my disease is the best way to continue to practice recovery. I urge you to help me's stay confidential in who has access to our medical records.
Sincerely,
Lillian C. Huebner
Thank you!