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From: Schalles, Scott R.
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2008 8:24 AM
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.
Subject: FW Confidentiality Code

2008 SEP -8 AM 8:25

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen McQuarrie [mailto:allen@clanmcq.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2008 10:03 PM
To: Schalles, Scott R.
Cc: Cheryl Floyd
Subject: Confidentiality Code

Scott Schalles:

A letter has been sent to providers by the leading proponent of drug and alcohol confidentiality code amendments. The letter may not be intended to coerce support for a public policy proposal that is overwhelmingly opposed. However, propriety, if not the appearance of propriety, may be in jeopardy when a funding agency might be seen as using the power of the purse to aggressively recruit support for a controversial change in public policy many opposed despite the risks. Whether the threat some see is real or imagined, many put their clients first and expressed their deeply felt concerns in detail regardless of the possible consequences.

As someone in recovery, I am grateful to those who defended my confidential records. Twenty four years ago, had I known that the information I was giving to my case manager was going to be widely distributed in the fullest possible detail, I doubt that I would be confident in the person asking me all those personal questions. I believe confidentiality is the key to recovery and disclosure of my entire medical file is not necessary to expedite treatment. I appeal to you to do what you can to intervene on behalf of those too vulnerable to defend their privacy.

The arguments made in opposition made by many more informed than I boil down to this. If those who need to implement the confidentiality code were properly trained, we would not be having this conflict of interests. Many of the arguments for amendments demonstrate a lack of understanding of the current code and how to implement it.

Thank you

Allen McQuarrie
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