

Erhard, E. Shaye

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From: Lunny488@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2010 7:39 PM
To: PW, RTFComments
Subject: RTF comment on proposal

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BUREAU OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Hello,

I was reading the RTF proposal, and if I am reading this correctly, it is saying that the state would make less visits, and I think that is a terrible idea. My son has been in multiple RTF's in PA, and they all have many issues. The biggest problem in PA RTF's is the mixing of MH and Neurological problems and brain injuries. The staff is lacking in training, and it has been an absolutely horrifying experience for us. On many occasions my son has been over medicated as well as missing medication doses. We have also had issues with seriously emotionally disturbed children doing this thing to my son that were horribly traumatizing to him, resulting in him becoming so upset and staff not being trained properly in Autism, injuring him. On one occasion he was covered in bruises that were staff inflicted, due to the lack of training, and worse yet when reported to the state I was never informed of the outcome or steps being taken to correct the matter. We have been lucky enough to be able to take him out of state to an RTF, and the difference was in creditable. Every RTF he left in PA made things so much worse. I did not know how much worse until he was able to spend a year in WI, and I could see the amazing results of being in an RTF specifically for traumatic brain injury and neurological deficit. I think that if PA is looking to work on how its RTFs operate to make it better for the kids, they need to really get in there and see what is going on, and doing one inspection per year is probably the worst idea ever. The children are the ones suffering through all this. I would avoid putting my child in any PA run RTF at all coasts, and would encourage other parents to do the same. The lack of supervision in RTFs is quite apparent in this state, as well as the lack of educated and trained staff. It is quite a scary thought. When my child was out of state I was more aware of his treatment and more involved in such then I have ever been. I felt like in PA I needed to go check on him every other day just to be sure he was safe. I would ask that someone takes the time and energy to fix our RTFs, nit make it easier for things to get any worse, for the sake of our children.

Thank You for your time
Jennifer Varady

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