

Erhard, E. Shaye

2878

14-522-49

From: Dr William Seibert [seibert2@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 05, 2010 4:20 PM
To: connell@paproviders.org
Cc: mstonesifer@hoffmanhomes.com; jsmith@irrc.state.pa.us, PW, RTFComments
Subject: Update on RTF Regulations

DEC - 6 2010

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I am a local family physician in Littlestown PA. I am a board member of the Adams County Childrens and Youth Services Advisory Board. I am a church member of Redeemer's United Church of Christ Littlestown PA. Our church helps support a Residential Treatment Facility known as Hoffman Homes. I am writing you to voice a concern I have about new FRT Regulations soon-to-be-published.

I fear OMHSAS is making a grave presumption that will have significant negative consequences for the youth and taxpayers of our community. The proposed regulations are intended to reduce the reliance upon RTF services by improving the quality of the treatment. I find it hard to understand how a maximum capacity of four units of 12 beds each, for a total of 48 beds is a realistic and/or necessary regulation. I think a program should prove it will improve the quality of treatment and therefore reduce reliance upon RTF services before you mandate limited beds to facilities currently treating larger numbers of children. Furthermore, a mandate for limited beds assumes all the needs of children to be cared for will be met adequately. What is magical about 48 beds in a facility to supporting the needs of the children in our community? I realize there must be some wisdom behind this regulation. I am looking for some information to explain why this mandate is to be included in the new regulations. I am looking for reassurance that this mandate will not unnecessarily limit access to quality care of the children in our community or strip pre-existing quality RTF services that currently provide this care. Finally, it seems odd to me that a RTF like Hoffman Homes that receives significant financial support from churches like ours should limit their services by funneling needs more into the realm of the public taxpayer in a time when we desperately need to reduce spending in government. I would like to see the mandate to limit beds in RTF stricken from the new regulations or be reassured that including said mandate children and the already heavily burdened taxpayer will not be paying more as a result of unintentional consequences. Thank-you for hearing me out.

Sincerely,

William D. Seibert D.O.

RECEIVED
 IRRC
 2010 DEC - 8 P 1:30