

14-546-102

3209

Mentzer, Lori

From: David Bretts [<mailto:dbretts001@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 1:40 PM
To: IRRRC <irrc@irrc.state.pa.us>
Subject: IRRRC 3209

Good Day,

I am writing in regards to the proposed IBHS regulations. I wanted to bring up a few points of some of the long term consequences when children with autism or mental health issues don't get the appropriate treatments by appropriately trained staff with the correct qualification not a "watered down version" over their lifetime. There are few research studies on this topic but I can give you real life experience. Autism runs in our family. We come from a highly educated wealthy family on all sides. My brother committed suicide at 40 years old because he was depressed because he did not have "social skills" despite being married to a wonderful woman and having two great kids. They did the best they could but they alone cannot give him a male "buddy" to relate to. Second, a female first cousin who had some intellectual disabilities with behavioral issues was physically restrained by tying her arms and legs. She ran away repeatedly afterwards was put as a missing person at one point. She was found and was diagnosed with PTSD. She is 47 years old now lives in a wonderful home with extended family but she still has to get up in the middle of the night, turn the lights on to know that she is still safe. There is no reason why she should have had to go to a group home to be traumatized when she could have stayed at home where she was always loved and cared for appropriately.

I strongly encouraged 2:1 aids as a first line defend when violence is a concern. Social Skills are skills needed over a lifetime not just as kids, adults need access to ABA too.

Regards

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