

Dear Andrea Schmook,
Chair, AMHB,

November 26, 2007

Angela Salerno called today and mentioned that the AMHB committee looked at only 3 issues of the 13 questions / issues that we raised.

We are asking that all 13 questions / issues that we raised be given a little bit of time in the committee and be addressed.

The committee can set up whatever format they want or however you want to do it; but all 13 questions / issues are legitimate and should be addressed by the committee (and eventually AMHB), before the next AMHB meeting.

As you know, AMHB has an obligation by statute, regulation and by-laws to put forth an opinion on these types of issues.

The committee should be concerned with "what is the right thing to do", "what is best practice", "what is the law"; not if the state can afford to do the right thing at this time. Doing the right thing should not depend on money. AMHB should put forth opinions based on sound principles.

The 13 questions we raised have been waiting for years to have an answer from AMHB. You heard at the last API Board meeting that API's forensic unit is not big enough to be adequate. Also, the Attorney General should be asked by AMHB: "Do voluntary / civilly committed patients have a right by law to be kept separate from criminals / forensic patients."

In closing, we are asking that all 13 questions / issues be given attention and addressed by committee / AMHB.

Thank you,

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