

Dear Mr. Jeff Jesse,

February 13, 2008

As you may remember, I testified at the last Trust Authority Board meeting, and Dorrance sent his testimony in by mail.

We are asking the Trust Authority Board to support and move forward 5 issues. We signified the issues we are sending by putting a red x next to them. (Issue # 2 – We want DHSS / Behavioral Health to mandate that all psychiatric facilities provide patients with an urgent grievance procedure and we want the state DHSS to assist patients and oversee the procedure.)

At minimum, could all 5 issues be moved into a Trust Authority Committee and then be given to the full Board? We would appreciate your help on these 5 issues.

The question has been posed by state employees that the state should turn over its protection of psychiatric patients to JCAHO. JCAHO grievance procedure says that facilities have 14 to 21 days to answer a patient's grievance—no appeal is mandated. If a patient complains to JCAHO, JCAHO has 30 days to notify a patient that the letter has been received. We have spoken to JCAHO and Medicare and they believe each state should develop their own statutes and regulations to protect psychiatric patients, an effort in which we encourage the Trust Authority to help.

Thank you. Please let us know if the Trust Authority will address our issues.

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