

Testimony to API Governing Body by Faith Myers—2/20/2007

Madam Chair, Board members,

My name is Faith Myers.

An API Committee was formed in 2006 to offer recommendations that would update API's psychiatric patients' grievance procedure and the 5 unit manuals. Unit manuals outline a patient's rights and responsibilities when in API.

It is my understanding that the final committee report will be presented today. I ask you as the Governing Body to examine the final recommendations of the committee and in an open meeting discuss the recommendations and vote on which ones should be adopted into policy or procedure.

Federal regulations, state statutes, and API Governing Board bylaws not only state that the API Governing Body has a right to require that the hospital adopt new policies, especially in the area of protecting and promoting patient rights, but the Governing Body also has an absolute responsibility to do so.

Also, in 2004, an API committee was established. The 2004 committee offered recommendations to the API Governing Body and the API Governing Body put forth their recommendations to management. As a past committee member, I firmly believe API management needs to account for what they have done to complete the recommendations of 2004, by showing the actual policies that have been added or revised. The API Governing Body and the general public have a right to be informed.

I'll pass out a copy of the 2004 committee and Governing Body recommendations.

The present 2006 Committee recommendations are being used in other states effectively. These recommendations represent best practice in hospital policy and procedure.

I urge you again as a Governing Body to support these recommendations, vote on adopting them and see the process through until they are implemented into API hospital practice and policy. That would be a small step for the API Governing Body and management, but a giant step for protecting psychiatric patients' rights.

Thank you,

Faith Myers
(907) 929-0532

Faith Myers