

Dear Governor Sarah Palin,

May 5, '07

We are asking for your help. We are asking you to clarify: "What is the role and authority of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute Governing Body."

At the last Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) Governing Body Board meeting, the Asst. Attorney General, Mike Barnhill (Juneau) stated that the API Board should ask Governor Sarah Palin to clarify on what is the API Board's role and authority.

A report produced by the Ombudsman's Office, April 5, '07, (enclosed) states that the Governing Body of API presently has a great deal of authority as a governing body.

At the last API Board meeting, May 3, '07, API hospital CEO, Ronald Adler, in the absence of the regular chairperson, presided as chair. He stated it was an informal meeting because of lack of quorum.

He also called for an Executive session to rewrite the bylaws that would change the authority of the Governing Body from governing to advisory and put management firmly in control. We don't know if they did that because we were not party to the executive session.

As patient advocates, we feel changing the authority of the Governing Body Board from governing to advisory would be very detrimental to the patients. There is presently a wide range of providers, hospital employees and consumers on the API Board and there is enough tension to produce some good things for psychiatric patients.

A hospital CEO should not be making a decision about the role of the Governing Body; even a Governing Body should not have that right. As Asst. Attorney General Mike Barnhill stated, that decision should be made by the Governor and the Governor's office.

In closing, we believe the Governing Body Board of API should remain a governing body.

If you could give some help on this issue and get back to us, we would appreciate it.
Thank you,

Cc: AMHB

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