

## **DMH NEWS**

*08/03/2010*

This message is going out to all MAPA members. Especially to the DMH COMMITTEE. I hope you know who you are.

It is not going out to the following, as I have deleted them from my address list, since they always come back returned. So if anyone talks to them, please let them know. They are: Ken Davis, Carole LaChance, Patsy Worthington, Barb White, Donna Eads, Melinda Abraham, Judy Pickering, Linda Leabo, Tammy Tarrillion, Teresa Moore, Karen Digh and Rhonda Hargiss.

EMAIL IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO CORRESPOND! However since everyone does not have it, and/or the message doesn't go through, I am hoping that Charli Ackerman, will post this on the website.

ISSUE #1 - Next meeting with DMH in Jeff City, will be Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at the DMH offices in Jeff City, at 1 PM. Attending the meeting along with MAPA DMH committee will be a committee from the Probate Judges Association, and I believe a committee from the Sheriff's Association. They are wanting us to all have the information we need to get our wards help when needed and the right procedure in obtaining that help. This will be an interesting meeting. Mr. Felix Vincenz and Bernie Simons will be in attendance. If you are not on the DMH committee and you have a concern, let your Regional VicePresident know, they are on the committee, and should be at this meeting.

ISSUE # 2 - Nevada Hab Center Closure and MO P&A report of ABUSE.

Anyone with a WARD at the Nevada Hab Center received a consent (release of information) form from the MO. Protection and Advocacy Agency asking for permission to look at our WARD's records. Some of you signed the forms and returned them before we were made aware of the facts. I will explain this in more detail below, but the MOST IMPORTANT thing right now, is IF YOU DID SIGN THIS FORM, you CAN RESCIND THE PERMISSION by writing to the Superintendent, Chris Baker, of the HAB Center and tell him that you have had second thoughts and you want to rescind your permission and DO NOT WANT THEM LOOKING AT YOUR WARDS RECORDS. With a Current date, it should work, or you may want to get it notarized as well.

Here is the scoop, as far as I have been able to understand it. It will effect everyone who has anyone in NHC.

The letter with the consent (release of information) forms that we all received said that there was 'AN ALLEGATION THAT THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE RESIDENTS OF NAVADE HABILITATION CENTER HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT'. After several guardians (parents and PA's) called to inquire about the abuse, it is reported that they admitted that there was no report. It is believed that they heard about the HAB CENTER closing and they wanted to get their foot in the door to advocate for those that the Guardians were not agreeing to move, on the basis that 'NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE IN AN INSTITUTION'. They were going to use the records against us to help DMH get the HAB CENTER closed. Natalie Wood, NHC Family Support Assoc, President, reported that they are trying to stir up trouble and STOP the Group Homes from being built, because they want to make sure that everyone is in the least restrictive environment. Regardless if it is the right environment for that person. 'Least Restrictive' is all they are

looking at. Natalie Woods also filed a formal complaint with Governor Nixon against MO Protection and Advocacy. She stated that they were guilty of fraudulently misleading guardians of the abuse.

SO AS THEY INFORMED US AT THE CONVENTION, THEY WANT TO CLOSE THE HAB CENTER AND BUILD GROUP HOMES ON THE CAMPUS IN ITS PLACE. THIS WAS THE PLAN.

Then last night I got an email from our PRESIDENT, Terry Edwards, informing me of a meeting today in Jeff City, where the MO. P&A were trying to get us removed as the guardians if we were going to give them any trouble of placing our wards in the 'least restrictive environment'. Rep. Barney Fisher from Vernon County had emailed Terry asking that we be at that meeting. He believed that MO. P&A would be at the meeting, and we needed to be there as well. He is going to file a formal complaint on the Federal level against the MO. P&A because they have resorted to bullying, scare tactics, threatened lawsuits against the DMH and PA's and Guardians. And he was asking for someone from our Association to be at the Mental Health Commission Hearing. I went, but since I had Probate Court, I was a little late getting there. I came in right when Senator Pearce and Rep. Barney Fisher had their time on the agenda to speak. The following is a brief summary of what happened.

Senator Pearce stated that he had been working with Kieth Shaffer in developing a plan to build the GROUP HOMES on the HAB CENTER CAMPUS. They had both agreed that this was the best solution because of the budget crunch. He explained that they had worked very hard on it and made reference to two SB's, which I have not looked up yet. SB 2285 and SB 2317. He was basically the GOOD COP playing the 'TEAMWORK, COOPERATION' hand, and in SUPPORT OF THE GROUP HOMES.

Then Rep. Barney Fisher took the floor, and said he was the BAD COP, and was in fact SUPPORTING THE HAB CENTER. He wanted the Hab Center to remain a vital part of the community. As a 'Jewel of Innovation and Imagination'. A place of respite and crisis care service center for those who have left the Hab Center, and may need to return. But he could see where we have come to a fork in the road. Then mentioned the 'Other Fork' in the road that was being done by MO. P&A, by them resorting to bullying, head-butting and threatening court action tactics. He will not stand for it. He has filed a complaint against them in the Federal Court. And he doesn't care if that complaint ends up in the bottom of someone's bird cage, because he will just file another one, and another one, until something is done. ( He never really mentioned MO P&A, but referred to them as an Advocacy Agencies. )

He has a 4-Step Plan:

Step 1: He has a letter to send to the Federal Court authorities and it will be signed by himself, and the President of the NHC Family Support Assoc, as well as the Secretary/Treasurer of that organization. "And also the President of MAPA wants to sign it".

Step 2: He will hit the Media, full speed, and will make sure that everyone knows the truth behind this Federal Agency that is bullying the guardians of these fragile individuals.

Step 3: If one lawsuit is filed against any guardian, He will file legislation on December 1, barring Advocacy Groups from interfering with the decisions of Guardians. (I hope I got that right).

Step 4: He wants to be appointed on a committee by the Governor, and Head this committee (?) and he will take sworn testimony about any alleged abuse at the NHC. HE DELIVERED ALL THIS WITH PASSION, AND I WAS IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM,

AND HAD TROUBLE HEARING EVERY WORD HE SAID.

They asked for questions, but the questions were really directed to others such as to Kieth Shaffer. One of the committee members had missed a meeting, and she wanted to know how all this came to be??????????? LOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kieth Shaffer did his best to explain how it came to be for the Hab Center Closing, and it was all to do with the budget. He had to cut \$3.1 million from their budget, and they looked at every possible way to do that . One was to close the Hab Center and build GROUP HOMES. He said that they have 19 people in the community air