



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

March 30, 2007

Mr. Elmer L. Cerano, Executive Director
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.
4095 Legacy Parkway, Suite 500
Lansing, Michigan 48911-4263

Dear Mr. Cerano:

Thank you for your letter communicating concerns regarding the future role of the Mt. Pleasant Center (MPC) and the services provided by the facility to consumers with developmental disabilities. The Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) takes your comments and recommendations very seriously.

The leadership of DCH agrees that the proper place for many of the individuals being served at MPC is in the community. We fully support that eligible individuals be served in the least restrictive setting.

On behalf of the consumers served throughout the state's mental health system, the department has been advocating that the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) and the Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) discontinue unnecessary utilization of MPC. Independently-developed, appropriate placement plans must be assured for their consumers, so that these individuals may be discharged from the facility and placed into community settings that meet all of their needs.

For individuals being referred for possible admission to MPC, the department is working to alleviate inappropriate admissions by the promotion of increased communication and coordination among the PIHPs and CMHSPs. The department is in the early stages of developing a virtual team of experts from the department and throughout the field that will provide the expertise and clinical skills required to make informed referrals for admission to MPC.

Many individuals with the background and knowledge base that provided these skills are now retired and no longer working for the PIHPs, the CMHSPs or the department. It is essential that steps are taken by everyone to network and coordinate resources to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are placed in appropriate community settings, rather than referred for admission to MPC.

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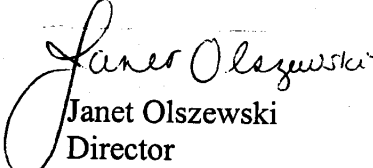


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It is the department's intent that individuals with developmental disabilities are assured of the least restrictive/most integrated setting that is appropriate to meet their needs. The support of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service in regard to these endeavors is appreciated.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


Janet Olszewski
Director

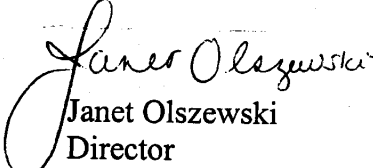
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