

Advancing the human and civil rights of people with disabilities

SELF-ADVOCACY ASSISTANCE ★ LEGAL SERVICES ★ DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION ★ PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY ★ ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

January 14, 2009

Lana Norwood
Labor Relations Alternatives, Inc.
4400 Ramsey Avenue
Austin, Texas 78756-3209

Dear Lana,

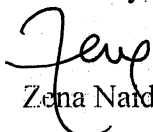
As you know, the special report from Equip for Equality, entitled *Private Psychiatric Hospital Initiative: Keeping Patients with Mental Illness Safe – Chicago Area Hospitals' Compliance with Restraint and Seclusion Laws*, has been released. We are currently working with the Illinois Hospital Association regarding the recommendations of the report and will be pursuing legislative activity to ensure implementation of the recommendations.

Our work with regard to the private hospital initiative would not have been possible without the substantial contributions that you made to the project. With your expertise, an extensive tool to examine hospital restraint and seclusion policy compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations, along with best practice standards, were developed. Your expertise was again utilized to analyze the data gathered from Chicago-area hospital restraint and seclusion policies, develop findings and co-author the report. We will be updating our website to ensure that the authors of this publication are recognized upfront, including you and your team members.

I want you to know that as we complete the work on our latest collaborative public policy research project, the national study on restraint-related deaths, the published report will provide appropriate and well-deserved credit for the role that you, Labor Relations Alternatives and other partners and contributors have played. We anticipate that the new study will garner significant attention, including from national and state policymakers and the media, and it is very important to us that your critical role and that of the other partners and contributors receive recognition.

Your unique skills and insights on abuse and neglect, incident management and public policy research have been invaluable to this organization. Thank you again for your partnership, support, enthusiasm and insights. It is always a pleasure to work together on studies aimed at informing policymakers about the risks associated with restraint and seclusion, best practices and ways to move towards restraint-free environments.

Sincerely,


Zena Narditch

Thank you!

THE INDEPENDENT, FEDERALLY MANDATED PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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