

[REDACTED]
December 23, 1973

Robert J. Hiltner
Superintendent
Western State School and Hospital
333 Curry Hill Road
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

Dear Mr. Hiltner:

With reference to our son, Mark [REDACTED] a resident at Western State School and Hospital, Pine Lodge II, regarding the medical management surrounding his grand mal seizures in July 1973 and this past week of December 20th to 22nd of 1973.

As responsible parents we have co-operated and given our best assistance to the Social Service Dept. and medical staff whenever possible for the management and care of Mark since he became a resident at WSSH. A part of this assistance was to give a complete report of Mark's history and our knowledge of his medical treatment prior to his admission. This history was given in writing and made available to the Social Service Dept., as well as the medical staff. In addition, special conferences were held with the Social Service and medical staff after his admission and again after the July episode of seizures to convey pertinent information for the medical treatment of Mark.

After Mark's episode of convulsive seizures in July, we inquired at various meetings with Social Service and medical staff for causes of repeated seizures. We were consistently getting incomplete information pertinent to Mark's condition specifically in the area of drug usage, and the changing of drugs before a thorough analysis and evaluation was made with regards to his medical history. In addition, a severe gum condition had developed. This information was withheld from us and when we inquired inaccurate information was given to us. After the drug program was changed, we were not informed that Mark was developing a pattern of seizures until he developed a grand mal seizure as a result.

It appears that the management of Mark's treatment for his seizures this past week is a reoccurrence of mismanagement and insufficient treatment for his condition similar to the episode which occurred in July of this year.

Reconsidering all these past experiences we do not feel that Mark is receiving the best medical and dental treatment that he is entitled to receive at WSSH.

We have received unsatisfactory answers from some of the medical staff when we inquire about the medical management given to Mark.

After the first episode in July we were assured full co-operation in all areas regarding communications to the parents, and medical treatment, and to this date we cannot say that we have received this assurance.

Therefore, we request that a full investigation be made and a report in writing be sent to us regarding the above comments and questions which follow:

1. How many seizures has Mark had that have been reported and recorded since his admission to WSSH up to July 1973? How many were considered to be grand mal seizures? Were the parents and social worker informed of these occurrences?
2. What medications was Mark maintained on just prior to July 1973?
3. Why were the medications adjusted before the occurrence of the supposedly first grand mal seizure in July of 1973?
4. What adjustments in medications were made after this grand mal seizure and why?
5. Was Mark's medical history reviewed and evaluated before treatment and before adjustment of medications were made?
6. Were the parents and social worker notified of the subsequent seizures and medication adjustments?
7. What medications has Mark been maintained on since August 1973?
8. When was the first occurrence of Mark's seizures of the week of December 17th, 1973?
9. What day and time did the grand mal seizure occur?
10. Were there specific orders or instructions given in the event of an occurrence of a grand mal seizure, in view of Mark's history?
11. What were the circumstances surrounding this seizure?
12. How long did it or they last?
13. Were there injuries sustained?
14. What treatment was given?

(Mark [REDACTED] cont.)

15. Were the social worker and parents notified?
16. Was Mark's medical history reviewed and evaluated before treatment of the seizures was given?
17. Were his medications readjusted afterwards? If so, what medications were changed and why?

We trust that the forgoing questions will be answered thoroughly and complete. Please confirm by telephone your receipt of this request and when we can expect to receive a full report in writing from your office.



cc.

Dr. Trudy Elterich, M.D.

Barbara Salus, Social Worker

→ Dr. Harry Goldberg, Parents Group President

Dan Torisky, Parents Group Vice-President

Jack McClain, Grievance Chairman