Maladaptive Behavior Programming
Report to the Board of Directors

We have continued to seek independent reviews of our maldaptive behavior
programming, especially with regard to aversive conditioning procedures for
severe self-injurious behavior. We have also continued our survey of other treatment
facilities in the state with regard to aversive conditioning procedures. State
facilities do have aversive conditioning procedures in their guidelines as treatments
of last resort for the types of behaviors we have treated. Aversive conditioning
procedures are and have been used very infrequently, but apparently not battery
shock perse. Nonetheless, it was recently cited at a National Conference on Self-
Injurious Behavior given by Woodhaven Center and Temple University that I recently
attended as an established, highly effective, and harmless treatment for self-abuse,
though naturally a treatment of last resort. An independent review team from the
Department of Health found no violations of ICF/MR regulations, as well as a personal
review of these programs by Pat Gishbaugher, Acting Commissioner of the Office of
Mental Retardation for the Western Region. To insure our further protection,
Ms. Gishbaugher suggested, and we accepted, a review by a team of experts from
Woodhaven-Temple University. That team again found no evidence that we were
operating outside of ICF/MR regulations, but noted from their experience that these
regulations did not adequately protect us from legal action since they represented
minimal requirements and not "state-of-the-art" thinking about residents rights
and behavior modification. In light of this feedback, and given that the aversive
conditioning procedures had already brought the self-injurious behavior under control,
we have discontinued both battery shock programs. We are also in the process of hiring
legal consultants who specialize in this area to update our procedures to protect
our resident's rights as well as our facility.

Submitted by:

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