

*Run [unclear] [unclear] & Sally H.*  
*USSH file 12/9*  
114 Green Ridge Drive  
Monongahela, Pa. 15063  
December 4, 1974

Commissioner Charles Peters  
Office of Mental Retardation  
Department of Welfare  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Chuck:

We would like to reiterate to you, and through you to Mr. Taylor and Secretary Wohlgemuth, some of the statements which we made at a November 25th meeting. You will recall the Coroner was asked to investigate another death, this one due to a heart attack which it would seem had not been properly treated. You will also recall that while the Coroner did not feel his office should have been called in this matter, he probably did not feel it an entire waste of time since it was here that he discovered the "secret team" about which he has been so vocally displeased.

We are very frankly appalled and concerned at the absence throughout these grave days of the Medical Director. We are well aware that vacations are needed and should not be tampered with except in cases of extreme emergency. Such an extreme emergency existed at Western and yet the Medical Director could not be reached having left no forwarding telephone number. This seems inconsistent with a position of such authority.

We must also be so bold as to question the judgment of all concerned in the fact that the Medical Director would go on extended leave while a fulltime doctor was on three weeks' vacation and another doctor had been on sick leave since August.

We wonder also why a Medical Director would go on vacation during the time when one of the most critical moving of patients (total care) and residents from one lodge to another was taking place. It would seem from a lay person's point of view that every medical person on the staff would have been made available on moving day and for at least a week following.

The above questions and viewpoints are not "official Parents Group" position nor do we intend to discuss the matter at our December meeting. We feel, however, that it merits some serious consideration by all concerned and we respectfully request that some thought be given to it by you who have more knowledge and quite possibly even different opinions from ours. We tender ours for what they may be worth.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Mr. Norman Taylor  
Secretary Wohlgemuth  
Mrs. Virginia Thornburgh ✓

Harry and Alice Goldberg