

FILE

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October 2nd, 2008

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The Honorable Governor Ted Strickland
30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

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RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

Dear Gov. Strickland,

In February of 2008, I had called you office concerning the services for patients needing mental health treatment. On August 5, 2008, I called your office concerning the **approval of AEP to raise the rate structure for the residents of Ohio.** I received follow-up for neither.

To re-cap what I had stated as my concerns:

- I have grave concerns about the closure of the mental health facilities in Cambridge and one additional location in the state of Ohio. As a former Pennsylvania resident, I lived through seeing the catastrophic issues for that patient base when services were discontinued. In the Philadelphia area when they closed a major Mental Health facility (ByBerry), it was a nightmare. It took the patient base that had been being treated there and either put them into the criminal system or into other hospital systems with out back-up information. It was reported that this also resulted in the homeless population being drastically increased as well.

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- With concern to AEP, since I have relocated to Ohio, in the area that I live in, I have seen large office buildings constructed for the management/clerical support staff and heard of rumors of the upper-management being paid extremely high salaries for the current economic condition that most of the population lives with-in.

My question to your staff concerning the mental health issue was instead of closing the mental health facilities, why not right size the current facilities and supporting staff, thus leaving them open on a smaller scale? Or combining the two patient populations and keeping the most viable institution open?

I know that you and your staff must realize that in this current economic situation, the need for Mental Health Care is on the rise, not improving. Certainly as you try to resolve the issues that you team inherited, you do not want to discard on of the neediest part of your constuaites that during their illness are usually so apathetic as to not even have a voice.

I also had asked to be directed to see where the budgets and salaries paid to AEP executives could be reviewed.

To date, there has been no follow-up on either issue. While I do realize that Ohio has faced may crisis situations with the recent problems of the destruction of hurricane Ike and the recent financial concerns, I still need to have my questions answered with time to use them for decision making for voting.

Governor Strickland, please ask a member of your staff to respond to me in writing with in 14 days of receipt of this information. In the next few weeks, there are several opportunities to interface with the current candidates and I would very much appreciate if I could ask them informed questions.

Page 3 of 3

It is my belief that every citizen holds a responsibility to be informed and involved. In that I have relocated back to Ohio in the past two years, I am still trying to identify the best mechanisms for research and having my voice heard. The fact that I have not had feedback from either of my calls to your office is somewhat concerning to me. If your process of getting answers for Ohio issues is something other than calling, please advise me of the most appropriate process. If need be, I will try to research to whom I spoke with when calling and upon future calls, I will be certain to document the name of whom I am speaking.

Please advise if you need any additional information from me to respond to my concerns.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,



Vicki Cummins-Farkas