



West Virginia  
Behavioral  
Healthcare  
Providers  
Association

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November 19, 2008

Sonia Chambers, Chair  
Board of Directors  
WV Health Care Authority  
100 Dee Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Ms. Chambers,

The West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association, representing twenty one licensed behavioral healthcare provider agencies, is in support of the Certificate of Need standards remaining in place for Behavioral Health. With the standards having been in place we have witnessed new services being developed at a reasonable rate and as needed to respond to the behavioral healthcare needs of West Virginia citizens.

The WV Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association would also note that the Hartley Consent Decree recognized the special status of the comprehensive community behavioral healthcare provider agencies which under contract with the State Department of Health and Human Resources deliver services to the State's indigent citizen population. This ruling was known as the 'big batch' giving designated C.O.N. status to the comprehensive behavioral healthcare centers.

Finally, if it is determined that certain parts of the Behavioral Health standards should be updated we would request the opportunity to participate in that process. Clinicians with our variety of service locations have many years of expertise and insight which undoubtedly would be helpful in this process.

Sincerely,

John Russell  
Executive Director

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AUTHORITY

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Cc: Association Members