



Board of County Commissioners

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 31, 1998

Ms. [REDACTED] Supervisor
Colorado State Department of Human Services
Division of Child Care
[REDACTED]
Denver, CO [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On March 23, 1998, I called Mr. [REDACTED]. I was expressing some concerns about a treatment facility that is licensed by the State of Colorado. Basically, he suggested I write this letter as the facility has been investigated before and the only thing he would do with my letter to him is "put it in the file". This is concerning to me if this indeed how concerns are addressed.

I am concerned that the treatment my client recently received in a pre-placement interview that was demeaning and humiliating to him and basically stripped away his dignity as a human being. As our mandate is to work in "the best interest of the child", I feel your department should be informed as to the situation at Adolescent and Family Institute of Colorado (AFIC) with the youngster in my care.

Mr. [REDACTED] told me that the program description included confrontive therapy. I do not consider a pre-placement interview as therapy. It is not in a child's best interest when he/she is confronted in the manner in which my client was, and there is no way to do any follow-up therapy (after the interview, he was returned to [REDACTED] Detention Center).

On February 14, 1998, I was unable to sleep thinking about the interview I attended with my client, his father, Dr. Panio, and his staff. In my opinion the kid was stripped of his dignity, and humiliated in front of people who he never met before, as well as his father with whom he already has conflict, and me. Obviously the intelligence and skills of the group of AFIC staff are no match for an immature 16 year old boy. In my opinion, they tore him to shreds. I felt so bad after returning him to [REDACTED], I had to pull off the road, because of tears in my eyes.

I am a 58 year old man currently employed as caseworker III, in Jefferson County. In the 20 years I've worked in the field of Human Services, I have never seen a professional treat a youngster in a way that totally disregards him as a human being with worth. Especially a group of people who call themselves professionals.

Department of Human Services


Human Services Facility, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

During the interview the work "fuck" of "fucking" was used liberally. It was also used by all but one of the staff in their conversations with this young man and his father. I felt this young man was trying to answer the questions as best he knew how and was making an honest effort to be accepted by AFIC. Thinking back, I should have ended the interview myself and taken him back to Mt. View. Incarceration is more humane.

Dr. Pario said such things to him as "have you ever taken a shit and forgotten to wipe your ass?", "have you ever put your dick in a garbage disposal?", "I think you would make a nice girlfriend for someone in prison", "maybe it's because you're stupid", "every time you flap your lips, you tell fucking lies". Is this indicative of the kind of treatment of the State of Colorado condones and licenses? I feel if some media person got wind of this it would be very embarrassing to the State Department.

For the record, I am not opposed to confrontational therapy. I had never used this facility before, but was asked by the father of this boy to provide something other than 'cookie cutter' therapy. What I don't agree with is taking away the dignity, integrity, and respect due our fellow human beings. I strongly urge you to look into this situation. What happened to my client was not in his best interest.

Sincerely,


Youth Services Caseworker III

Approved:


Social Service Manager II

mkw