

11/13/17

Good Morning Legislators and guests

My name is James P Murphy, APRN, Advanced Practice Nurse in the practice of Psychiatry. I have been in practice 40 year, holding a BSN from UConn and Master's from Russell Sage College in Troy NY. My experience spans all levels of Direct Care of Persons with Psychiatric Illness, with Administrative experience at the Nurse Manager level in General and Tertiary Hospital level. I have skills in Psychotherapy, Psychopharmacology and Behavioral Management,

In coming before you this morning, I have followed with keen interest the allegations of abuse at WFI[Whiting Forensic Institute], both as a citizen of this State as well as a Practitioner of Healing Arts. That the investigation rose to the level of State Police investigation, over and above the Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is Prima Facie evidence of systemic tolerance of abuse, lack of supervision, and worst, unethical behavior of healthcare providers to the point of criminal warrant. As a Healthcare provider, this caused me agita and anger. The criminal justice system has paced these fellow citizens, humans as we, in the custodial care of WFI for evaluation and treatment of their illness; NOT for punishment or worse torture. Yet, the alleged actions, if borne out, are indeed abuse that sets

inpatient treatment standards back to the days of Dr Phillippe Pinnel in the 1800s. He championed humane care of the mentally ill, back in the day of chains and confinement as opposed to treatment and rehabilitation.

We are faced with a situation now that is both Medical/Nursing in Nature as well as criminal. I am gravely concerned about the level of care that may/may not be being given to the wards of or our state as both prisoner of the DOC as well as patient of DMHAS. The duality of purposes need not be, and should not be, distinct in the care of their wards. Instead, the CARE of the HUMAN BEING in their charge should be the paramount objective, and the incarceration aspect be moot in that their inpatient hospitalization is involuntary and supervised. Active and substantive treatment must be the primary objective.

Let me pause to applaud the staffers who HAVE done their ethical and moral duty in providing care. This situation should not detract from those who truly care and treat those individuals at WFI. Unfortunately, many have had to deal with adverse publicity about the facility they undoubtedly have given professional service at.

We are at a crossroads here. I am hopeful, as a citizen as well as Practitioner, that the DPH, DMHAS and Criminal arm of Government act as dentists. That the painful cavity of abuse be

abraded and cleansed, via staffing changes that no doubt are painful and necessary. There after, insertion of a filling into that cavity of caring and focused on the Humane, Moral and Ethical care of the individuals placed in their care meeting the necessary levels of assessment by internal as well as external auditors from JACHO, DPH and other entities chages with maintaining levels of acre in inpatient/hospital levels of care

Thank you for your attention