

May 7, 2009

Dear Client and Family Leadership Committee:

Please see the emails from a frustrated mother below. She has tried everything at the local and now at the state level to get help for her son.

This is a perfect example of why community stakeholders are so frustrated and why community stakeholders need to have a prominent voice in the development of an independent local-to-state issue resolution process that works, saves lives and prevents retaliation at any level. Please see the accompanying comments from NAMI CA members about what they see as needed in a truly "transformational" issue resolution process.

Thanks for all you do.

Dede

Dede Ranahan
MHSA Policy Program Manager
NAMI California
1010 Hurley Way #195
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-567-0163

"Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."
Dr. Seuss The Lorax

P.S. Danny tried to kill himself a few weeks ago by slitting his throat.

From Danny's Mom:

Danny is being referred to a ghetto Board and Care in a location that is a couple of blocks from where the 4 police officers were recently killed. He is being kept out of the county because he cannot access their housing or Board and Cares due to his Health Plan insurance. I am being forced to give up his Health Plan insurance, which is the only thing that ensures him an inpatient bed. I am in a Catch 22 nightmare and nobody seems the least bit interested or concerned with a resolution.

My son just phoned me from his Crisis Residential Placement and said the following:

- Why don't I go to sleep in a dark place?
- Nobody should feel what I am feeling.
- I don't want anyone to set eyes on me.
- I am going to be locked up forever.
- I didn't survive out there.
- I can't breathe.
- I can't speak up.

Why does nobody help him? I have done all I can to get him help. Please share my story with anyone who you think might care and could make a difference. I am ok and have support, but my son needs someone to save his life.

Dear

This is a follow up to our conversation yesterday regarding Danny's possible placement in a Licensed Board and Care. While I appreciate your attempts to find a licensed Board and Care, in order to satisfy the stipulation, of the Adult Program Chief that Danny must be in a licensed placement in order to avoid having his conservatorship dismissed, my husband and I have grave concerns about the safety of this neighborhood and feel that he will be at serious risk. Since Danny has been assaulted, multiple times, in the past several months, the chances of him navigating the neighborhood, safely, seems unlikely.

As you recall, Danny was brutally assaulted, in the neighborhood of his last Board and Care Placement, in Vallejo, CA, while taking a walk. He was in an unfamiliar area, got lost, and then made a poor decision, that resulted in a severe beating. He was also assaulted several times, while living homeless for the 5 or 6 week period in December 08 and early January 09. Danny has just called me and expressed serious fear of this placement and fear of what he might do, or what might happen to him, if this placement occurs.

This placement and the treatment plan feels like a set up for another failure. Has he not failed enough to consider that something new should be tried? Putting someone in a known drug infested area, surrounded by criminal activity, when they are a mentally disabled drug addict, is a set up. The environmental triggers will create barriers to his recovery. A meeting once a week is not a suitable recovery plan for sobriety. Also, how will he get to this meeting and back at night? How will he get to and from Health Facility, for appointments, shots, etc? Maneuvering public transportation, in this neighborhood, is a recipe for disaster. Community placement, in a community that is not his, is unacceptable.

As you are aware, I have filed formal complaints with the Department of Mental Health and have referred my son's case to Disability Rights of California. I believe he is being denied access to a safe community placement, with the proper support, that would allow him to recover and avoid another relapse and hospitalization. I am still waiting for a written plan of correction that will prevent the incident of February 25, 2009, from re-occurring. There is nothing in the plan, that you described, that provides me with any confidence that my son's life will not be a serious risk.

There are placements in Central County that would be more suitable, safe, and culturally appropriate for a Caucasian male. This area would also put him in closer proximity to his conservator and a variety of community supports that do not exist in the location he's been assigned to. He would have access to the Clubhouse [and](#) the MH Wellness Center to name a few. This would provide him access to peer supports that he would not have where you are sending him.

My son continues to be discriminated against by the County and Health Plan. By not providing him appropriate housing with the necessary services that will allow him to recover and live independently, is a violation of his rights. Please reconsider your plan.