

HARRIET A. FIELDS, Ed.D., R.N.

#604

1722 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
Message: (202) 234-7142

September 21, 1995

Judge Thomas F. Hogan
U.S. District Court
District of Columbia
Washington, DC



Dear Judge Hogan:

Re: Civ. No. 95-948 TFH, D.C. Village Nursing Home

I am writing you to inform you of two situations relating to my Court monitoring activities.

The first is as of today at 1:00pm, I have not received the Court ordered payment of Friday, September 15, 1995.

The second area is that I support the United States motion to expand the duties of the Court Monitor to include the transfer and outplacement of residents. This would include, among other activities, attending outplacement meetings and monitoring individual care plans, placement of residents, and ability of the proposed facilities to meet the needs and care for the D.C. Village (DCV) residents.

Some of my concerns with transfer and outplacement of residents are the following.

(1) Transfer trauma mentioned in my Preliminary Status Report.

(2) At least four of the facilities which have a policy of receiving District of Columbia medicaid payments for residents and are listed as possible transfer and outplacement sites are according to my consultants "substandard" to care given at DCV. For example, one nursing facility has an activities staff of two for a resident population of 250. According to my consultants, the staff morale in these facilities is low, the staff is not generally spirited and motivated to care for residents, the opposite of what I am generally finding at DCV;

(3) In a meeting on Monday morning, September 18, 1995, with Dr. Harvey Sloane, Commissioner of Public Health, and other District of Columbia government

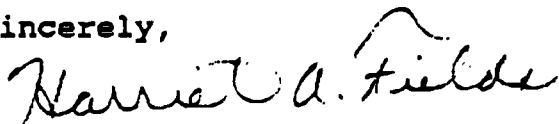
officials as well as D.C. Village administration, I raised some of my concerns listed above as well as my serious concerns about one in particular outplacement facility. Although, I need further in-depth assessments in this area, apparently many of the decubitus ulcers at DCV either originate at this hospital or further develop and multiply while DCV residents are admitted. Dr. Sloane suggested that I visit this local hospital to oversee the staff knowledge and competence in the area of care of decubitus ulcers.

(4) I have now attended three of the "Outplacement Meetings for Residents with Mental Illness." It is generally agreed upon at these meetings, that there are not sufficient nor existent at present appropriate placements for these residents needs. Careful and sensitive oversight is necessary. I believe the same situation maybe true for the residents with Mental Retardation, although further assessments are necessary.

I believe a formal expansion of Court Monitoring activities to include the transfer and outplacement of DCV residents will facilitate my ability to monitor in the best interests of the long term care residents of the District of Columbia and make it clear to staff at all facilities what my role is.

Again, Judge Hogan, I look forward to serving the Court and working with all concerned parties for the best interests of the long term care residents of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Harriet A. Fields, Ed.D., R.N.
Court Monitor

cc: Mr. Richard Farano
Mr. David Deutsch
Civil Rights Division
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Mr. William Isaacson
Kaye, Scholer
Washington, DC

Ms. Barbara Mann
Assistant Corporation Counsel
District of Columbia

HARRIET A. FIELDS, Ed.D., R.N.
1722 19th Street, NW
Suite 604
Washington, DC 20009
PHONE: (202) 234-7142

FAX TO: MR. RICHARD FARANO
COMPANY NAME: CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DOJ
FAX NO: 514-6273
(Phone) 307-3116
SENT BY: DR. HARRIET A. FIELDS
DATE: 9/21/95
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