
MEMORANDUM

TO: HEALTH CARE FACILITIES LICENSING

FROM: COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE CHANGES AT API

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2019

This Memo is to confirm the management level changes that have been put in place at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute "API" in response to recent state and federal surveys, which revealed deficiencies in the facility's ability to meet required conditions of participation.

Since taking office on December 3, 2018, the Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum and Deputy Commissioner Albert Wall, have prioritized patient care and staff safety at API. Specifically, Deputy Commissioner Wall initiated an effort in January to identify an outside resource for consultation and management support to the February 1 Plan of Correction deadline set by CMS.

On January 30, 2019, Commissioner Crum assumed direct authority over the API facility as authorized by Alaska Statute (AS 47.32.140(d) and (e)) and informed state surveyors that he was contracting with Wellpath Recovery Solutions, Inc. (Wellpath). Immediately thereafter, a complete revision of the management of the facility began, in order to address and reverse the practices identified in prior surveys that had identified threats to the health and safety of Alaskans who are receiving treatment at the facility, and those employed at the facility. As part of that process, DHSS and Wellpath negotiated the terms of a contact during the week of February 4, 2019, with a final contact signed by all parties on Friday February 8, 2019.

In light of the February 1, 2019, deadline on the Plan of Correction, State Surveyors and DHSS agreed to a safety protocol on January 30, 2019, that would address the health and safety of patients and staff while waiting for Wellpath personnel to arrive in Anchorage on Monday February 4, 2019. This protocol outlined a 24-hour video surveillance reporting procedure, which went into effect on February 1 at 7:00 am. This reporting continues to be in effect at the facility and has been instrumental in avoiding serious injury to patients and staff since its implementation. This protocol also required API staff to send an email every hour to Deputy Commissioner Wall report on any issues identified during the prior hour until Wellpath personnel arrived on February 4.

Members of the Wellpath solution team began arriving at the facility on Monday, February 4, 2019 and as of Monday February 11, the following Wellpath professionals arrived in Alaska to provide onsite management and support at API. Those individuals include but are not limited to:

George Gintoli, Project Manager and VP of Hospital Administration;

Dr. Kevin Huckshorn, Director of Evidence Based Programs and Practices

Dr. Karen Galin, VP of Behavioral Health.

A formal organizational chart is attached to his memo as well as a list of transition personnel who will support the contract that has been signed between the state of Alaska and Wellpath.

Since September of 2018, API has had three different CEO's, which has contributed to the instability of the operating procedures. Mr. Gintoli is in charge of the operations of the facility pursuant to the contract that was signed February 8, 2019. That contract outlines specific deliverables including the health safety and welfare of the patients and staff, compliance with all regulatory bodies, and increasing bed capacity. Gavin Carmichael (the previously acting Chief Executive Officer) has returned to his prior post as the Chief Operating Officer and is assisting with the transition to Wellpath. We believe the integrity of the operations will be maintained by having Mr. Carmichael remain with the facility as the Chief Operating Officer/point person on transition to Wellpath. Mr. Gintoli is in charge of the day-to-day operations at API, and Mr. Carmichael reports to him and to Deputy Commissioner Wall. Deputy Commissioner Albert Wall is frequently on site at API as well and is the contract manager for Wellpath.

As noted above, Wellpath has now been contracted with to provide a comprehensive assessment of API, to improve facility care and safety, and to achieve compliance with the various regulatory agencies including CMS. In 2018, Wellpath was created when two companies merged– Correct Care Solutions and Correctional Medical Group Companies – recognizing the importance of putting patients first and providing high-quality care. Additional information on Wellpath can be found at: <https://wellpathcare.com/>

All efforts have been made to provide collateral information to the public as this process unfolds, in order to maintain integrity and accountability to the state and to Health Care Facility Licensing. Information about these the history and ongoing facility improvements, including a copy of the contract between DHSS and Wellpath can be found at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/API/Pages/AdminChanges.aspx>

Because of these changes, we are confident that the facility is ready to appropriately meet state and federal standards and become a safer place for staff and residents. The amount of growth and improvement is already evident. With the guidance and management of the Wellpath team, API is ready to come into compliance with state and

federal requirements. The facility looks forward to working with CMS surveyors and others to continue on the path of improvement and compliance with all regulatory bodies but more importantly to assure the health, safety, and welfare of the patients that are receiving care and the staff, that are employed, at API.

For additional information on the Department's commitment to these changes, a full exchange with the Alaska legislature and API can be found at:

<https://www.360north.org/gavel/video/?clientID=2147483647&eventID=2019021093>

<https://www.360north.org/gavel/video/?clientID=2147483647&eventID=2019021095>