

disABILITY LAW CENTER  
OF VIRGINIA



Protection & Advocacy for Virginians with Disabilities

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August 19, 2016

Dr. Jack Barber, Interim Commissioner  
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)  
P.O. Box 1797  
Richmond, VA 23218-1797

COPY

Re: Emergency Restraint Chair Usage at CCCA

Dear Dr. Barber,

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) is deeply concerned about the inadequate array of services available to individuals with complex needs and with the lack of accountability of those serving them. As the Interim Commissioner, you are the person best positioned to lead DBHDS in effecting systemic change and increasing accountability.

Attached is a draft of dLCV's report regarding the treatment of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] two children committed to DBHDS's care for mental health treatment. dLCV has found that CCCA continues to utilize coercive and excessive restraint practices that are abusive and inconsistent with trauma-informed care principles. Specifically, the introduction of the Emergency Restraint Chair at CCCA has contributed to a dramatic increase of 163% in overall non-ambulatory restraints.

Please see the enclosed report for detailed information on CCCA's history of restraint practices and specific findings related to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We urge you to mandate swift and immediate reforms at CCCA to protect current and future children from harm. dLCV is considering making this report available to the public. We welcome your response by September 1, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Heilborn', is written over a horizontal line.

Jenny Heilborn  
Disability Rights Advocate

cc: Dr. William Hazel, Secretary, Health and Human Resources  
Dr. Jeffrey Aaron, CCCA Facility Director