

## **Adrienne Smith 10-14-16 HR 590 Testimony**

My name is Adrienne Smith and I am a woman in long-term recovery. I am a Certified Recovery Specialist and a Recovery Coach. I provide Telephonic Recovery Support Services for Message Carriers of Pennsylvania. Today I will be discussing the case of one individual who I provide this service to.

The individual is a 59 years old female with substance use disorder and a brain injury due to a ruptured aneurism. She's hard of hearing and has a number of other medical conditions. She is on a fixed income and has Medicare and Medicaid insurance. She was a resident of Allegheny County and got criminal charges in Westmoreland County. At her preliminary hearing she was assigned a Case Manager at the Magistrate's office. She was not able to see this Case Manager because she lived in a different county. She lives resides in Plum Boro a rural area with no bus service. Her next hearing at this same Magistrates' office she was put in jail because she was deemed a threat to herself; maybe due to her in ability to speak for herself.

She was released from jail on house arrest to a recovery house in Westmoreland County. The court set up an appointment for her to have a drug and alcohol evaluation in Westmoreland County. Upon arriving at this appointment she was told that they do not take Allegheny County insurance. I took her to the Department of Human Services and the Social Security Office to change her address. She was told that she needed to change her address on her State Identification Card. She had no money to get this done. I found a place in Westmoreland County that was close to the recovery house and that would take her Allegheny County insurance.

After finally getting the new Identification with her current address she changed her address at the Department of Human Services and Social Security. For five years, she asked Social Security to mail her a new Medical Identification Card. Because she's been so transit we got a relative to give her a permanent mailing address, so she could get her mail. She finally received her card, but still has problems keeping track of it.

She was attending Partial Outpatient, but needed a mental health evaluation as per a court order. She could not get an appointment at the local providers because her address had not been updated through both insurance providers' computers.

The recovery house threw her out for having a guest at the house that was not permitted there. She moved back to Allegheny County. She now had to rely on her boyfriend who is in active addiction to transport her to and from Partial Outpatient. She missed many days at Partial due to her medical conditions. Eventually, she was hospitalized and terminated from Partial. After coming out of the hospital she moved into another recovery house in Allegheny County where she could stay for ninety days.

Once again she had to wait for insurance to change her address back to Allegheny County to receive services. She started Partial Outpatient again. It was a two month wait to see the Psychiatrist. She finally got an appointment. Then she received a court date that was the same day as her Psychiatrist appointment. She had to cancel her Psychiatrist appointment.

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She needed a case manager and to find housing for when she left this recovery house. During her next session with her Drug and Alcohol Therapist the three of us had a conference call. The therapist stated that at first we could not have this conversation because she didn't release for me. The patient who has limited understanding spoke up and said why don't I sign one now! I suggested a provider for a case manager, Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) and a housing program. I emailed the applications for both programs to the therapist and CPS. With the help of her therapist she made and kept her appointments with two agencies. In order to get a CPS she needed a Psychiatrist to complete a form with her diagnosis. Currently, she only has a case manager at this time and not allowing me to speak with this person. The participant stated she don't want the women to feel bad in my presence. I questioned if the participant is able to tell her all her needs besides housing? However, she is still in need of housing and a CPS.

Our participant was asked to leave the recovery house and she moved into another one in Allegheny County. The reason she gave for being put out was because her Neurontin was stolen. She believes the other residence took her purse, stole her meds and helped her look for it. There was a confrontation and she was asked to leave. She was continuing with her Outpatient. She got a contagious infection after living in the new recovery house for one week and was told she couldn't come back until she was not contagious. She moved back in her boyfriend's house and was discharged from Outpatient again. I was to meet her at her PCP to get her application for ACCESS Transportation completed, but she did not have a ride to the appointment. She received a new criminal charge of driving while under DUI suspension. She stated that she needed to drive to pick up her medication. I have informed her several times that she can use a pharmacy that delivers. Most of our sessions are by phone and she does not complete tasks that she agrees to. She states that she cannot find her paperwork, or she is too depressed to do these things. She begs me to help her create a budget and pay her bills and fines, but I can only do so much over the phone.

She now has a probation revocation hearing for not completing Drug and Alcohol Treatment, not paying her fines and receiving a new charge.