

State probes choking death of man in facility's care

Posted by [csheinin](#) October 10, 2007 19:51PM

The state is investigating the accidental fatal choking Tuesday of a 22-year disabled man who was in the care of a South Jersey facility.

The man, whom authorities declined to identify, was a passenger in a van driven by a worker from Bancroft NeuroHealth, a Haddonfield center serving people with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.

The van made a stop at a 7-Eleven in Stratford Oct. 4 to treat him to a bagel "for having a good day," said Toni Pergolin, president of Bancroft NeuroHealth. "He choked on a bagel and went into cardiac arrest."

The man was taken to Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Stratford, where he died Tuesday, Pergolin said. The Special Response Unit at the state Department of Human Services opened an investigation immediately to assess the man's supervision and care, state spokeswoman Pam Ronan said. Pergolin said her staff investigated the events that day and believe the worker acted quickly and appropriately.

"At the scene of the incident, 911 was called and a Bancroft staff member administered lifesaving measures prior to the arrival of the EMT ambulance crew," Pergolin said in a statement.

The 2006 graduate of The Bancroft School lived in a group home in Cherry Hill. He had been a resident of Bancroft's residential programs for the past 14 years, Pergolin said. "Our prayers and concerns are with his family during this very difficult time," she said.

Another state agency, the Office of the Child Advocate, recently stopped monitoring Bancroft, because it had found it had corrected long-standing problems staffing, training and supervision.

Categories: [Camden County](#), [News](#)

Comments

Snapfish says...

"Pergolin said her staff investigated the events that day and believe the worker acted quickly and appropriately."

I'm not buying it. Wasn't the worker driving the van?

Each year thousands of emergency medical situations involve the act of choking. Many of these cases result in death, because the victim did not receive immediate PROPER first aid.

Posted on 10/10/07 at 10:38PM

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Each year thousands of emergency medical situations involve the act of choking. Many of these cases result in death, because the victim did not receive immediate PROPER first aid.

Posted on 10/10/07 at 10:39PM

Snapfish says...

Recognizing the signs of a person who is choking and knowing the proper first aid and CPR steps to take in this type of situation is all too important. If the airway of a choking victim is not cleared within minutes, death will be the result.

The truth will prevail.

Posted on 10/10/07 at 10:45PM

luv4my2sons says...

I'm not buying this either...my son is no longer in Bancroft..There was so much abuse neglect and and cover ups.

How do we know that it was actually a bagel he choked on? How could the staff let this go so far? If the staff did everything he was suppose to do, this client would be living.

And Toni Pergolins statement, regarding the staff did everything right? Time and time again, there always seems to be accidents at Bancroft.

When will they be held accountable.

In my opinion, there was never any regard or respect for this client.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 12:04AM

weknowdtruth says...

Don't buy this whitewash. It is not appropriate for the organization to make any public statements while under investigation. I have information that contradicts statements made above which I cannot disclose at this time. The truth will be heard. Stay tuned.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 1:09AM

luv4my2sons says...

I agree, the organization should never made any public statements, during an investigation. That is their first attempt to cover this up. These parents had their child taken away from them just because in my opinion, someone wasn't doing their job. This family is going through so much pain and agony. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

Our son was in this organization, but was remmoved because they couldn't manage him. And continuously had unexplained bruises, and would contradict what my son said what happened to him. I thought this organization was an organization that could handle the most severe.

In my opinion, this organization is not a safe environment for the vurnable..Their staff need training, Im talking intensive training.

If the staff was doing his or her job, this client would still be alive. If one is attended to immediatly, with proper cpr, the client should have survived.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 8:49AM

btinthefield says...

A tragedy, no doubt. It is disappointing, however, that some are so quick to rush to judgment about Bancroft without knowing the facts and before letting the investigation run its course.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 9:48AM

luv4my2sons says...

The tragedy is all the abuse and neglects from this organization that happened to my son and to many persons served in this organization. My son repeatedly sustained horrific abuse and some that I will not mention, and of course, but all of them came out unfounded..And now the death to a client, because someone wasn't paying attention. Time and time again, it seems so common that these horrific incidents come to surface. I believe this is the 2nd death to a client under the care of this organization, so I don't want to hear that people are so quick to judge this organization..And if any families try to speak up, they are notified by administration that if they continue to speak up, they will have to find a different program for their loved one. How's that for Caring Compassion and Commitment?

Posted on 10/11/07 at 11:26AM

Secretstash says...

"It is disappointing, however, that some are so quick to rush to judgment about Bancroft without knowing the facts and before letting the investigation run its course".

You must be a rah-rah Bancroft parent who choses not to acknowledge the abuse, neglect, and deaths at this facility just like their management.

You have what is called the "NOT MY KID" syndrome. Pretty pathetic. Bancroft is a house of horrors - "another" boy is dead. The only reason why Bancroft is even still open is because of the political hacks.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 8:53PM

Snapfish says...

BANCROFT NEUROHEALTH

Bancroft NeuroHealth's mission is to nurture abilities and independence of people with neurological challenges by providing a broad spectrum of advanced therapeutic and educational programs, and by fostering the development of best practices in the field through research and professional education. For more than a hundred years, Bancroft NeuroHealth has helped people with neurological disabilities live more independent, happier and healthier lives.

So lets check out there accomplishments:

"16 year old with autism commits suicide at Bancroft Neurohealth."

"The residential center, Bancroft NeuroHealth, based in Haddonfield, has been under tremendous pressure to improve its staffing and the overall quality of care it provides, since the death of a 14 year old autistic boy in 2002. Videotape from a residential facility run by Bancroft NeuroHealth provided state officials with enough evidence to call the treatment of one patient there physically abusive. That ruling overturns a previous one that registered concern but couldn't substantiate abuse. The resident, Matthew Goodman, a 14-year-old from Bucks County, Pa., died in February while in Bancroft's care."

"Bancroft NeuroHealth will pay \$100,000 to settle a lawsuit filed on behalf of a middle-age African American worker who contended that he was denied a promotion based on his age and race."

"A former staff member at Bancroft NeuroHealth in Haddonfield pleaded guilty Monday to one count of abusing and neglecting a teenager in the facility's care. Kelly Storms, 20, of Mullica Hill Road in Mullica Hill, admitted she used her body to pin down a 14-year-old autistic boy and put her hands around his throat, said Assistant Camden County Prosecutor Donna Spinosi."

"Officials at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services have fined Bancroft NeuroHealth of Haddonfield \$127,000 for violating laws meant to protect the residents housed in the institution. Department officials said Monday that this was the largest fine ever assessed against a long-term care facility. Bancroft is a 66-bed facility housing people with developmental disabilities and brain injuries. The violations included two cases of physical abuse and three cases of sexual abuse. Officials said Bancroft staff failed to properly administer medications, to call for emergency medical personnel in a medical emergency and to report allegations of abuse and neglect. The state also claimed staff members were poorly trained, that some did not even have licenses to practice in the State, and failed to follow treatment plans, or to provide residents with nutritious food."

"Bancroft Neurohealth was notified that it has two weeks to clean up its act or have its New Jersey operations turned over to an independent party."

"The findings in this report are troubling and it is clear the poor quality of care provided by Bancroft is unacceptable."

"Bancroft School is slated to receive \$125,000 in this year's FY2006 budget. The money should be put on hold until these problems are resolved. No more state money should go to this institution until the Independent Expert has completed monitoring the institution. The Office of Child Advocate has mandated the use of an independent expert to monitor Bancroft for 6 months with an option for another 6 months if needed. We must make sure that Bancroft won't be using these funds for lawyers to defend their improper care" The State of New Jersey should not continue to subsidize neglectful and substandard care."

"Gov. George Pataki signed the package known as Billy's Law, named for a youth sent to Bancroft Neurohealth, a residential facilities in New Jersey because of his traumatic brain injury. His father, Vito Albanese, says his son was beaten and restrained despite direction against it, and the boy received 40 stitches from a fall."

Close the damn place down before another death occurs!

Posted on 10/11/07 at 9:08PM

btinthefield says...

No Secretstash, I am not a Bancroft parent, rah rah or otherwise. You making statements attributing some syndrome to me and calling me pathetic is immature and disrespectful. I just wanted to express my opinion that people shouldn't rush to judgment about Bancroft or any other organization whose sole purpose is to help those in our society who need it most. However, I see from the tone of the postings on here that nothing I say is going to change your thinking about Bancroft. So continuing this dialogue is fruitless. I am sorry if my post may have upset any of you.

Snapfish, in your review of Bancroft headlines, don't forget the very favorable report that I understand was recently issued by the OCA after extensive monitoring of Bancroft.

Posted on 10/11/07 at 10:30PM

Snapfish says...

STOP KIDDING YOURSELF

Everyone's concern here are made up, all lies, is that what you are telling me? I understand that you have to believe in something and I pray for all the kids, YOURS INCLUDED, that nothing happens to them. But at some point you have to face reality and hopefully you do before its too late. But you don't have to worry, I speak out now and I will speak out then. If you don't have a zero tolerance that bancroft claims they have, and if you don't speak out before something happens again, you won't get zero tolerance.

After rape, safety of concern at facility for disabled people

The state child advocate hired a national expert on developmental disabilities last September to evaluate the safety of the vulnerable clients living at Bancroft Neuro health, Inc., a residential facility where two sexual assaults by residents had occurred.

A year later, the monitoring report is three months overdue. The child advocate's post has been vacant for nine months; Gov. Jon Corzine named a new nominee yesterday. And another sexual assault has been reported at Bancroft, a residential facility in Haddonfield for people with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. An 18-year-old has been charged with raping a 17-year-old non-verbal boy with autism.

The Camden County Prosecutor's Aug. 30 arrest of Benny Ward has revived concerns about safety and supervision at the facility.

"Let's remember that there are two victims in this unfortunate situation, and that both were """"""under- served"""""" by those charged with the responsibility of keeping them safe from harm,"

said Janette Vance, spokeswoman for the Family Alliance to Stop Abuse and Neglect, comprised of families with disabled loved ones who have been dissatisfied with care provided in the state.

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-Union), chairman of the Human Services Committee, said he is weighing whether or not to hold public hearings on Bancroft, at the urging of Assemblyman Eric Munoz (R-Union), a committee member.

"I am very concerned," said Cryan. The committee is not scheduled to meet until November, but Cryan called a meeting with Bancroft officials this week to discuss how the sexual assault occurred.

"I want to see what they did with regards to the rape and see how staffing levels are, then decide whether to hold hearings," he said.

Munoz asked the public advocate to subpoena records and disclose all cases of abuse, neglect and poor supervision. "It is obvious that state monitoring is not working." "We need extreme measures to clean this facility up," he said.

Steven Eidelman, a University of Delaware professor and the former executive director of the advocacy group The Arc of the United States, said he's nearly finished the monitoring report after making visits, reviewing files and interviewing staff between November and May.

Bancroft needed a monitor because a 15-month investigation by the child advocate's staff concluded the facility was often short-staffed, its employees unsupervised, and had difficulty coordinating residents' medical care and conducting internal investigations.

Former child advocate Kevin Ryan's office got involved at the behest of the Family Alliance and other parents with children at the facility after a 19-year-old resident was found to have sexually assaulted a 16-year-old boy in May 2004 and a worker in January 2003.

Eidelman said he thinks Bancroft has made some improvements, although he declined to be more specific until the report is made public.

"Person-on-person assaults are extremely unfortunate. They are not rare, unfortunately," Eidelman said. "My sense is (Bancroft officials) are being diligent and vigilant on these things."

Bancroft has declined to discuss details of the assault and arrest.

"It is important to note that we took immediate action in reporting it to appropriate law enforcement agencies and other authorities, and have fully cooperated in the investigative process," Bancroft spokeswoman Liz Thomas said in a prepared statement.

Bancroft safety probe sought

HADDONFIELD

Two state assemblymen want an investigation into safety conditions at Bancroft NeuroHealth, where one teenage patient is accused of sexually assaulting a youth.

Bancroft, which serves people with developmental disabilities and brain injuries, should be the subject of "immediate" hearings before the Assembly's Human Services Committee, Assemblyman William D. Payne, D-Newark, said Wednesday.

"I don't know whether or not we (the state) should continue doing business with Bancroft," said Payne.

Assemblyman Eric Munoz, R-Summit, also has called for hearings. He said the state's Public Advocate should subpoena records from Bancroft "and disclose all cases of abuse, neglect and poor supervision of clients."

"Bancroft does not see the need for hearings", said Liz Thomas, a spokeswoman for the nonprofit.

"We are very disappointed that the two assemblymen have called for public hearings without accepting repeated invitations to meet with us or to see any of our programs in action," she said.

"We continue to stand by the "quality" of our programs," said Thomas, who added Bancroft has "zero tolerance" for abuse and neglect.

The chairman of the Human Services committee -- Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, D-Union -- could not be reached.

Thomas said Bancroft officials plan to meet with Cryan today "to discuss issues relating to Bancroft and the care of people with disabilities."

Both Munoz and Payne cited the Aug. 28 arrest of an 18-year-old Bancroft patient, Benny Ward, who is accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old autistic boy at their shared residence.

"For quite some time, I've had concerns about Bancroft," said Payne, who cited previous assaults at Bancroft facilities and the 2002 death of Matthew Goodman, a 14-year-old autistic boy who lived on Bancroft's Haddonfield campus.

Bancroft paid fines of more than \$100,000 as a result of inspections that followed Goodman's death. And the state Office of the Child Advocate last year ordered reforms after a 15-month inquiry into Bancroft's operations.

State checking alleged assault at Bancroft

TRENTON

The state Office of the Public Advocate is looking into the alleged sexual assault of a 17-year-old autistic boy by another resident at Bancroft NeuroHealth in Haddonfield in July.

Public Advocate Ronald K. Chen, in a prepared statement, said his office has requested all documents related to the investigation and will work with the Office of the Child Advocate to determine what course of action will be taken.

The incident happened July 11. Benny Ward, 18, who was a resident of the Bancroft facility, is charged with aggravated sexual assault, acting Camden County Prosecutor James P. Lynch said.

Chen also said his office will be evaluating the state's system of reporting incidents of abuse and neglect at facilities that provide services for people with developmental disabilities to determine whether there are "system-wide concerns that require action."

Statement by Ronald Chen on Bancroft Neurohealth

Department Of The Public Advocate

RONALD K. CHEN Public Advocate

The following is a statement by Public Advocate Ronald K. Chen concerning Bancroft Neurohealth facilities:

The safety and welfare of individuals with developmental disabilities is a top priority for the Department of the Public Advocate and in the first months of the Department's operation we have devoted significant attention to these issues.

We also have worked closely with the Office of the Child Advocate in recent months to collaborate in efforts concerning Bancroft Neurohealth facilities.

On June 30, 2005, in order to address supervision and other issues of concern that were identified as a result of the Child Advocate's investigation into Bancroft, the Office of the Child Advocate entered into a settlement agreement with Bancroft. The settlement agreement covered a broad range of operational areas including: staffing levels; reporting and investigations of incidents involving allegations of abuse and neglect; supervision of psychological and behavioral services and coordination of medical care. To ensure the implementation of the settlement agreement, the agreement also provided for the appointment of an independent expert to provide ongoing review of Bancroft's practices over a six month period.

That monitoring period ended in May and Independent Expert Steven Eidelman has not yet provided his final report. The Office of the Child Advocate has been in regular communication with him concerning the drafting of his report, and we expect his final report very soon.

We also have collaborated with the Office of the Child Advocate to look into the July incident involving an alleged sexual assault of a 17-year-old resident by another resident. We have requested documents from all relevant sources concerning the ongoing investigations. Upon review of those investigation materials, we will work with the Office of the Child Advocate to determine what action would then appropriate on our part. During this process, it remains critical that both the victim and the suspect in this alleged assault receive appropriate and necessary treatment and services.

In addition, over the next several months we will be evaluating the state's current system of reporting and monitoring of incidents of abuse and neglect of all facilities that provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities to determine whether there are system-wide concerns that require action.

Assemblyman Eric Munoz, M.D.

MUNOZ CALLS FOR HEARINGS ON BANCROFT

Assemblyman calls on Public Advocate to Subpoena Records on Abuse and Mismanagement of Developmentally Disabled

SUMMIT □ Assemblyman Eric Munoz, M.D. is calling upon Assemblyman Joe Cryan, Chairman of the Assembly Human Services Committee to convene hearings and investigate the ongoing reports of abuse and neglect at Bancroft NeuroHealth, located in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Munoz stated, □Time and again we have developed a blind eye when it comes to this institution □ an institution which is paid for by tax dollars to provide and protect the developmentally disabled.□ The

Assemblyman, who is also a member of the Assembly Human Services Committee, is seeking a one-on-one hearing with the institution executives.

The Assemblyman's request comes on the heels of a reported rape of a teenage patient at Bancroft. Authorities reported that an 18 year old resident, entered the room of another resident of Bancroft in Haddonfield on June 11 and sexually assaulted him. The 17-year-old alleged victim has autism and is unable to communicate verbally, authorities said.

Munoz continued, "Why are we tolerating deaths, negligence, rapes, abuse, and poor supervision of the developmentally disabled? There should be zero-tolerance of incidents of abuse when it comes to our most vulnerable citizens. While Bancroft spends time and money wining and dining state officials, they should be paying more attention to the developmentally disabled that they have a legal and moral obligation to serve." The Assemblyman was referring to an invitation he recently received to Bancroft's Black Tie Gala on October 28th.

Munoz also called upon the Public Advocate to subpoena records of the institution's incident reports and disclose all cases of abuse, neglect and poor supervision of clients. "It is obvious that State monitoring is not working. We need extreme measures to clean this facility up."

Assemblyman Munoz has been a strong advocate for the developmentally disabled residents of state funded institutions. In 2002, he sponsored Matthew's Law, a measure that would limit the use of restraints on the developmentally disabled. The bill was introduced following the death of Matthew Goodman after he was held in restraints at Bancroft's Lindens facility. State investigators found the institution guilty of abuse and neglect.

ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Assemblyman William D. Payne

The Bancroft Neurohealth facility in Haddonfield, NJ should be subjected to an immediate investigation for "repeated failures" to provide safety and security for residents at its facility.

The vulnerable people, with developmental disabilities, or victims of traumatic brain injury, who are "residents of Bancroft, are at serious risk of rape and other sexual assaults as evidenced by the episodes which have been brought to light recently".

"The viability of Bancroft as a state provider is extremely questionable." The organization has been the subject of investigations in the past which resulted in numerous fines against them.

As a member of the Human Services Committee, I strongly urge Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, chairman of the committee, to convene public hearings immediately. It is imperative to learn whether other serious violations are occurring at Bancroft and to determine whether the Bancroft organization should continue to be certified as a qualified provider for New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens.

Do you want me to continue with the "unreported" abuse?????????

Posted on 10/11/07 at 11:49PM

luv4my2sons says...

In my opinion, OCA was politically motivated...I listened to that hearing too. The parents were hand picked to testify, and the email that was sent to families outside "the board" were sent a misleading email to the "other families" and did not get to testify. How clever Bancroft is. Of course the families were scared to death to testify due to fear of retaliation, or have their loved one thrown out. My son was thrown out on the street with no notice. A nearby hospital was appauled at Bancrofts behavior in their words " you;re just going to throw this kid out on the street when he needs your help? No response from Bancroft. And the day he was thrown out, there was a huge black/blue mark, but it was still black from what my son told me he was punched by a staff person.

" I see from the tone from postings on here that nothing I say is going to change your thinking about Bancroft"

Obviousley he/she does not know what its like to have a son/daughter badly bruised, sexually assaulted on going three years in a row, nor do that have to hold their child who is shivering and crying because they are afraid to go back into their group home..

My sons abuse gave me enough reason to write Bancroft off. Not only did my son receive the abuse, but so did the client in the years passed before he choked and died..I really think that the poor staff was with him was put in that position.

This was not the fault of the staff, but of the administrators.I felt administrators do not give staff support..

This organization needs to take responsibilities for their actions.

I believe OCA report was a huge lie....with the client to client sexual assults and all the abuse and investigations that went on there. How could the OCA come out favorable?

Family members know that, and they live in constant fear that their child is not safe in their apartments or group homes. They have to live with the fact, that there is no quality of life.

You'd think that this organization would have learned their lesson after the death of Matthew Goodman....but they just walk over what ever tragedy happens, then they move on.

I understand that they are not post poning Bancroft Day which should be a day of mourning for the client who had just passed on...How sad.

That's right, their motto is "caring compassion, and committment"

Posted on 10/12/07 at 12:12AM

browncreeper says...

The OCA's monitor only looked at the Lindens and the campus, not the group homes in the community, pediatric or adult. Supervision and safety issues in the group homes have always been much more serious than on campus. However, the following have occurred on campus/Lindens in the last six years: the death of Matthew Goodman after being held in restraints for 16 months, a 50-page

deficiency report citing violations of 40 state regulations, and at least seven sexual assaults. The OCA's recent report did not even address the June 2006 sexual assault on campus.

Off campus, there was a suicide in March 2003 and now Steven's recent and tragic death. Reports of alleged physical and sexual assaults, abuse and neglect abound from the group homes.

You can't find another facility in the country that has such a horrific track record and has remained in business. Nor can you find a facility with such political connections, such a PR machine, and such aggressive legal defense.

It is time that the truth came out about the pattern of practice of this facility. Hopefully, Steven's parents will find the courage and strength to speak out about what really happened to their son at Bancroft.

Posted on 10/12/07 at 12:22AM

browncreeper says...

See today's article in the courier post:

Choking death under review

By SARAH GREENBLATT
Courier-Post Staff

STRATFORD

The Camden County Prosecutor's Office and the state Division of Developmental Disabilities are investigating the death of a resident of a group home operated by Bancroft NeuroHealth.

Stephen Komminos, 22, a resident of a Bancroft group home in Cherry Hill died Monday, after being placed on life-support at Kennedy Memorial Hospital here following a choking incident at a 7-Eleven here on Oct. 4.

Komminos choked on a bagel, a Bancroft spokesman said Tuesday.

Group home staff administered life-saving measures, but Komminos sustained a brain injury from the loss of oxygen, the spokesman said.

He declined further comment, citing the family's request for privacy. It is not known why Komminos was at the convenience store on White Horse Pike.

Stratford Police Chief Ronald Morello said Thursday that borough police and the ambulance squad responded to the incident.

Morello said Komminos' father, Thomas Komminos of Saddle River, requested a criminal investigation of the incident, and that the matter has been referred to the prosecutor's office.

The division is also investigating the matter, said Pam Ronan, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Services.

Ronan said the division will examine whether Bancroft supervised the resident sufficiently and provided group-home staff with adequate training to meet his needs.

The division performs annual surveys of group homes that serve disabled adults, Ronan said, adding that social workers visit more frequently as part of their case-management duties.

"We have a fairly regular contact with the agency," she said, adding that Bancroft has done a good job in recent years of communicating with the division.

In August, the state Office of the Child Advocate released Bancroft's pediatric programs from the oversight of a monitor after finding that the Haddonfield-based nonprofit had improved its operations.

The monitoring was performed under the terms of a settlement with the state, following the 2002 death of Matthew Goodman, a 14-year-old autistic resident at Bancroft, who had been put in restraints and died of pneumonia and other ailments. Prosecutors found he had not been intentionally harmed, but the organization paid \$101,500 in fines to the state for lapses in care.

In 2006, Benny Ward, an 18-year-old Bancroft resident, was charged in the sexual assault of a 17-year-old autistic boy.

Reach Sarah Greenblatt at (856) 486-2457 or at sgreenb@courierpostonline.com

Posted on 10/12/07 at 4:18AM

Secretstash says...

Where are all the organizations that are suppose to speak out and protect our most vulnerable children?????

New Jersey Protection & Advocacy is a joke!

Leadership is not even "flimsy at best" its NON-EXSISTENT!

Posted on 10/12/07 at 6:06AM

luv4my2sons says...

Secretstash, I agree with you on that...where are the organizations are to protect the children.

I think that they would be more involved if the families even within the relms of Bancroft would speak up. I was suppose to testify last year, but was just thrown out of Bancroft after being abused.

I was still fragile, as I wanted to make sure he was in a secure placement. And now he is.

The famililes are paralyzed with fear, because Bancroft frowns upon families calling an outside agency in the fear their loved one will be thrown out of placement.

Five families received a call from the senior board member last year because they spoke up at a parent meeting regarding safety, staff shortage and the quality of their loved ones quality of life. Families were also told if they don't stop speaking out, they will have to find another placement for their child.

Most of the families, except for the "family board members " are extremely unhappy with the program, and are in constant fear their loved one is being abused and mistreated.

My son was abused, mistreated, then thrown out.

During the time after my son told my husband and I that he was sexually assaulted, and the Camden County Procecurator's office was involved, when my son went in for questioning, I asked the detective if I should bring a lawyer to represent my son, and I was told NO!, Then, when he went in for questioning, special response and the detective, would not let me view him being question. The special response unit, told me after the fact, that this most likely happened, but there is no evidence that it happened.

I finally convinced the detective at Cherry Hill PD to bring her down again for questioning, after everyday that I was crying on the phone with the detective, the staff who abused my son, finally came down with her lawyer, she agreed to take the lie detector test, and the detective said she failed it 3 times, and she almost gave up what she did, than ran out the door. The detective said she was pathetic. This is the same time, she confessed that she beat up the other client dragging him across the carpet, and which I saw he was covered in bruises, and later my husband noticed he was doubled over in pain. This client that I am speaking about is the client who died after choking on the bagel.

The entire time my son was in Bancroft, he was kicked in the stomache, punched in the back, and and punched in the arm which we have photos of the huge bruise on his arm.

A group of family members and I met with Assemblyman Cryan, showing him the abuse reports, photos of bruises. One family member right after the other. The stories were so horrific, Assemblyman Cryan couldn't sit still in his seat.

This was right before the hearing DHS had with Bancroft. I was reassured by Assemblyman Cryan after the hearing, that he definitely will be keeping his eye on Bancroft.

He realizes that the family board members were hand picked, as I told him that the other family members received a separate email letting them think that just the administrators will be attending the hearing....

Quite frankly, they should ask the vice president of family affairs to step down. She initially was suppose to be the person for families to go to, when they had issues...

Posted on 10/12/07 at 8:50AM

luv4my2sons says...

I really think that families if they all got together to come forth and testify, that they will be heard by the state. The reason the legislators and the state of nj haven't moved this issue further is because they said the families aren't coming forth they cannot all be thrown out if they all come forthwhen will the next death occur?

The family of this client should express that when they tell their version publicly. That the families should all come forth and testify.

No one is looking to close this facility, but to improve it. If there is not an army of families testifying regarding abuse and neglect. then this will continue. And instead of their loved one being thrown out, another fatal tragedy will happen.

Posted on 10/12/07 at 9:26AM

weknowdtruth says...

Commentor btinthefield obviously doesn't get it. He/she is spinning the same crap that is coming from the spokespeople for Bancroft. He/she may even be their PR firm.

Bancroft has been in damage-control mode since this incident happened. Everything they say is geared toward their primary objective of minimizing the negative impact on public and media perception. When that information contradicts the truth, it is a dangerous path to follow.

Posted on 10/14/07 at 7:45AM

luv4my2sons says...

I do so agree weknowdtruth. The person All the families in Bancroft must come forth and speak out, or this will go on and on. I think now they have alot more to worry about rather than having their loved one thrown out...If all of the families came together is one, finally they can be held accountable for their actions....btinthefield sounds like he/she has no regards to the clients that have passed on. I just don't get it.

Posted on 10/14/07 at 10:15AM

luv4my2sons says...

I would like to ammend the above paragraph as I speak much better than I type.

I do so agree with weknowdtruth. All the families in Bancroft must come forth and speak out, or this will go on and on. I think now they have alot more to worry about other than their loved one being thrown out. If all the families came together as one, finally Bancroft can be held accountable for their actions.

btinthefield sounds like he/she has no regards to the clients that fave passed on....I just don't get it....

Posted on 10/14/07 at 10:45AM

luv4my2sons says...

I would like to ammend my last posting.

I speak better than I type.

I agree with you weknowdtruth All families in Bancroft must come forth as one and speak out, or this will go on and on. I think now they have alot more to worry about rather than having their loved one thrown out. If all the families came together as one, finally the agency can be held accountable...And changes can be made to the better for the clients remaining....

Posted on 10/14/07 at 11:18AM

scard4life says...

I have to agree with much of what all of you are saying. I actually worked with child that choked to death at Bancroft and I want to believe this was an accident. There are many good people that work there, although the group of people that ruin it for the good are really, really bad.

I was a 1 to 1 there for a few years and left because I couldn't take what I was seeing anymore. Many times a blind eye or it the incident was pushed under the rug. The group of people that investigate inside Bancroft are horrible and basically want you to rat out anything and everyone and often times put words in your mouth. They are not always looking for the truth of what happened with a child but looking more at staff members they are trying to get rid of. I have also witnessed if they "like" a staff member, they will keep them on but maybe "re-train" them in certain courses or my personal favorite was when they put them another child, they just couldn't work with the child they abused anymore.

The bottom line is if people want to know the REAL truth about Bancroft and what GOOD staff there truly is there as well some TERRIBLE staff that need to go is to send someone in there undercover. That person will see some things that will put chills up and down their spines. If the parents only knew about the drugs alone that staff do on campus and residentially, they would be shocked. I think the best line of attack for these parents is to send someone in there and have that person work there without anyone else knowing what they are doing. From what I hear about that place right now, they will hire Mickey Mouse they are down staff.

This was a tragedy, but there are some GREAT people there and God knows when I was there it certainly was not for the money, but I loved my job. I just couldn't sit back and watch things happen and nothing happen when you opened your mouth. When you did open your mouth, YOU were the one who was punished, not the one who did the wrong thing.

Posted on 10/15/07 at 6:13AM

luv4my2sons says...

You sound like someone I would like to reach..Reading your last sentence..The timing wasn't right last time, but if I do, it would be helpful if you would join me. Would you..I am prepared now.

Posted on 10/15/07 at 7:35AM

luv4my2sons says...

Zues...People need to come forth..2nd death is one more too many...would you call Stephens parents?

Posted on 10/15/07 at 7:59AM

luv4my2sons says...

Scard4life....thank you...let me ask you something, would you testify this?...You could help make such a difference....these our, our loved ones and the most vulnerable....

Posted on 10/15/07 at 9:59PM

jesreadin says...

Lemme see if I get this...your son was repeatedly abused by guards at Bancroft and you left him there...you were afraid he would be thrown out? Lady, I woulda had my son in the car bringing him home weather or not he was tough to handle.

I bet Bancroft has abusers there and I bet there are good staffs. You can blame and blame all you want. But you say you knew he was being abused and you still left him there? Nah, you couldn't of believed it that much.

Posted on 10/15/07 at 10:17PM

Snapfish says...

Jesreadin

Bancroft is known for abuse, neglect and deaths. They will never admit to it, They are very well protected by the Camden machine. Did you read the above comments and the history of Bancroft? Do you think this is all a fairy tale? Until the State of New Jersey wakes up and stops turning a blind eye to the abuse, neglect, and deaths of our vulnerable children, which they vow to protect when they took office, Bancroft will continue with its abuse, neglect, and will continue causing unnesseccary deaths and chalk it up as a "as a form of treatment and get away with it. Pathetic, pathetic, pathetic.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 12:01AM

jesreadin says...

You making my point. If the house or whatever was all that bad, why leave my kid there?

The post I was replying to said that the mom knew her son was being hit and whatever and she said parents said they was afraid to speak up because there kid might get thrown out. Alls I said was I wouldnt of let my kid stay there if I knew what she knew. She seems like she mad cause they threw her kid out. Id of taken my kid home myself.

Sounds like sour grapes cause they threw her kid out. I cant beleave every parent of a Bancroft kid just dosent care about there kids and shes the only mom who did.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 6:05AM

scard4life says...

Love4my2sons

I think I know who you are. I would love to, but to be honest nervous is also another feeling. Bancroft has some "Big Wigs" and can make life hell. I still work with this population. Perhaps there is a way of us contacting each other and work on this from another direction. I do want to help somehow, just not quite sure how.

Let me know how we could make contact to talk.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 6:31AM

jesreadin says...

scard4life-

You knew that kids was being abused...guards was doing durgs...and you didn't tell the police? You just a part of the problem. Bet you got fired, too, cause you and luv4my2sons both sounds like you got a case of sour grapes.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 7:21AM

luv4my2sons says...

jesreadin,

This is criticism most people that don't have an aggressive special needs child or adult/child understands..There are no spaces left in the State of NJ available..My son is a handsome autistic 5ft 11 279 lb fully aggressive, strikes out at the the public, pulls hair, when his aggressions are high and have brought people to the emergency room..Although he is friendly loving and affectionate when he is not in his anxiety. He cannot help hurting people because of his impulsivity..The reason why he was thrown out was because he continously ran out of the group home in a community, and running down and into an elementary school, putting his hands through a double pain glass window, putting young children at risk, also eloping out of a facility next door to a highschool and pulling down a teacher, and interrupting a wrestling match. He jumped out of vans, ran across highways. He also had problems in prior group homes..The staff at group homes are paid a low income, where the ceo's are paid high figures.

All the families that have children at Bancroft including myself and my husband when at Bancroft, lay awake at night fretting if our children are being abused or not, or if my son is eloping out of his group home,. Everytime the phone rang, I heard my heart pounding...I spent all night on the couch fretting, then went to work...if you spoke up or complained, you were threatened that they will have to look for another placement.All the community based residential facilities are the same. Our whole life revolves around our special children..We all love and care about our children very much...The state needs to restructure these facilities where they are more modified with stricture policies...They should be monitored, not somtetimes but all the time...If you were in our shoes, you would understand...I am not faulting you for not understanding, you have to be in our position...It is very painful.

Where he is now is in a loving envirenment ,more of a restrictive campus environment and doing very well. He is in developmental center where the staff are fully trained and certified. And a very well run program. I have never seen my son smile so much...They are treating his aggressions, through therapy

Families who have loved ones in Bancroft and any other residential community based group homes go through the same thing...believe me I know, my son was in two other residential facilities. I feel deeply saddened and angry that another mom and dad lost their beautiful son.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 8:45AM

scard4life says...

love4my2sons,

would love to chat with you. i just don't know how we can do this. i can't say who i am on here..not sure what people may be reading this site. let me know what you can come up with.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 1:08PM

scard4life says...

love4my2sons,

would love to chat with you. i just don't know how we can do this. i can't say who i am on here..not sure what people may be reading this site. let me know what you can come up with.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 1:08PM

scard4life says...

jesreadin,

who said i did or didn't. if you read my posting you would know that i tried to do the right thing, which is why i left. unless you worked there, you could NEVER know the nonsense that goes...you have no right to pass judgement or make any assumptions.

Posted on 10/16/07 at 1:11PM

luv4my2sons says...

I would like to ammend something I wrote in one of my postings regarding the female staff who failed the lie detector test which is sitting down at the Cherry Hill PD regarding my sons sexual assault...In recalling information, about past abuse to another client, it was the slapping the clients head what she was confessed to the Cherry Hill PD not anything else.../

Posted on 10/17/07 at 6:55PM

scard4life says...

I don't know if anyone read the article in the courier post this wed. but tony pergolin is nothing but an absent administrator.

if she ever did random drug tests at the schools alone more than 3/4's of the staff would fail. they hire jerks and considering the wages they offer that is all they will get to work there. They fail to realize you get what you pay for and with this population, you need to offer more than minimum wage.

Posted on 10/18/07 at 3:12PM

jesreadin says...

scard4life wrote: "they hire jerks and considering the wages they offer that is all they will get to work there."

well, they got you, didn't they? You throw around a bunch of statistic (3/4 of the staff?) like you know something. you don't work there...you didn't like it or them. You find someplace doing that work that pays better? Cool. Now take what you know and go public and do something. Postin your sour grapes here ain't changing anything.

Posted on 10/18/07 at 5:11PM

frmrstaff says...

Okay, enough. You've latched onto Steven's tragic death as a means of politicizing your own distrust of Bancroft. I acknowledge, I am a former staff member and have my own beefs with Bancroft but the stuff you're accusing them of is outrageous. Former staff have also made completely false allegations here.

Allegation: When Bancroft can't handle a behavioral issue, they just call 911.

Fact: Danielle's Law was passed by well meaning people such as you and requires any agency to call 911 in the midst of a medical OR behavioral emergency. Failure to do so results in a 2,500 fine for the staff member, NOT the agency. It is a state law, not a choice.

Allegation: Bancroft reassigns staff accused of physical abuse to other people.

Fact: In almost all instances, staff accused of physical abuse are suspended. In a very small number of cases, when the individual making the allegation has a long history of false accusations, a staff member may be reassigned to avoid the burden of a lost paycheck while allegations are being investigated. This is rare, and usually occurs when the staff person has an exceptional history and the person making the allegation has a history of recanting false accusations.

Allegation: Staff who report abuse get in trouble, up to and including being fired.

Fact: Bancroft has a completely anonymous 24 hour compliance line: Staff, individuals or families can call and leave completely anonymous reports. This is presented to every new staff member at orientation. The state also operates an anonymous tip line.

Allegation: Toni Pergolin is an absent administrator.

Fact: I didn't know her personally, but I can tell you her leadership is what made sure Bancroft didn't go under. Her guidance assured money was not handled inappropriately. She saved the place.

Allegation: Bancroft discharges individuals it feels it cannot support safely.

Fact: This one is probably true, and rightfully so. Much of the parental complaint here centers on Bancroft's discharge of their loved ones, yet they rail on about abuse and neglect. Sounds like your son needed to be discharged. You did not want that to happen, which presents the question: why not? If Bancroft was so bad, why not welcome their decision to discharge?

Don't drag this family down with your vendetta. It is unfair.

Posted on 10/18/07 at 5:32PM

luv4my2sons says...

frmerstff,

first of all, the family of the client who choked to death, their son, are very good and dear friends of mine...

In fact, we went through the same on going abuse with each others sons.

That is unfair that you accuse me of dragging this family down, this is not a vendetta..This is being fed up with the constant abuse, coverups that happen continuously there...My son had huge bruises on his back in which he was able to tell me either who kicked him in the stomach, back and a huuge black and blue mark under his arm.

My son was able to describe what happened to him, who did it, what time, what day etc...including his sexual assault with Deanna, he gave graphic details..the perp was transferred to our group home from another group home...

.This is not a vendetta.

This is being sick and tired of this facility neglecting and abusing their clients...

Stephen, was my sons former housemate...His parents are one of my closest friends and I love them...The top three administrators just seem to step over all their tragedy's even the sexual assault of a boy on campus, and then their lives went on....

My son was thrown out because they didn;t have qualified staff to manage his behaviors...also, he was acting out because of his abuse...The reason the one of the top administrators told Assembly Munoz, is that since the sexual assaults happened, and couldn't manage his challenging behaviors...Bancroft used to be noted to control behaviors...Why couldn't they handle my sons? Also, all of his impulsiveness came from him reacting to his abuse.

Ok, no Danielles Law. Danielles Law is a good and very needed law, but what is happening now, and has been happening, the staff have a difficult time using judgement which is the right time to call 911 during behavioral issue., to call..They can't call evertime the clients like in my sons case, threw a laundry basket...

The staff seem to find it easier to call 911 instead of managing the behavior...Now this is not all the staff, because there is good and well trained staff, but for all the times my son was with staff who just wanted to babysit.

.Most of the time, a situation is wrongly handled which sets the clients off into an aggression...Then the client is sent to the hospital, it is a horrible process.

A nearby hospital in Cherry Hill are sick and tired of the clients being sent to the hospital from this organization over situations that cannot be handled by the organization....It is so unfair and cruel...

Staff need to be trained anually with Danielles

The group homes need to be monitored, not by other staff but by a hired grounds keeper to make un announced visits.....

I will never stop advocating for the most vurnable, and again, it is not a vendetta..

It is the tragic death of this client, which hit too close to home, and yes, it upsets me. I really loved Stephen. And I feel for this families loss terribly!

Posted on 10/18/07 at 6:22PM

luv4my2sons says...

First of all, former staff,

I am not dragging down this family..I am very and best friends parents who lost their son to choking..

Stephen was my sons former house mate in pediatrics.

It is not a vendetta, it is being fed up with all of the deaths, abuse and neglect going on there.

I was at the funeral, and watched those two parents, holding each other up during their devastation and heart wrenching pain over the loss of their son.

I happen to love this family and very much loved their beloved son...I have been in tears for over a week.

Both my son and their son went through alot of abuse and neglect in this particular group home.

in the 5 years my son was at Bancroft..he was brutally beaten, on his back and arm, and kicked in the stomache...my sons abuser who kicked my son in the stomach, leaving a boot tip mark,in the stomache, was transferred to the Lindens, and was caught on tape cornering a client..

And on top of that, the group home manager in that group home, handed in a UIR report regarding my sons bruised stomach, which was never handed over to special response..

And let's talk about Danielles Law. Yes it is a very good and needed Law...But after my son was sent to the hospital 3-4 times.in a month, and seeing all the other Bancroft clients there, I have come to my own conclusion that direct care staff cannot judge when the right time to call 911 so when the client throws a laundry basket or something, they call 911. when staff can't handle a behavior...

The reason why the behavior got out of control, because the staff could't pick up the "trigger" a pre=curser staff is to look out for, in other words, what is going on with the situation which causes the aggression..Alot of these behaviors can be avoided.

So please, don't accuse me of any type of a vendetta. The family that suffered their sons loss is one of my best friends.

It is the tragedy of his death which tells me enough..

You obviously do not have children, or any compassion in your heart in all that you said...

You have NO idea what families go through....but there are many of the good staff that are there that do.....

Posted on 10/18/07 at 6:56PM

Snapfish says...

Therein lies the problem FRMRSTAFF

Allegation: When Bancroft can't handle a behavioral issue, they just call 911.

Fact: Danielle's Law was passed by well meaning people such as you and requires any agency to call 911 in the midst of a medical OR behavioral emergency. Failure to do so results in a 2,500 fine for the staff member, NOT the agency. It is a state law, not a choice.

The fact is that Danielle's Law was never intended for "behavior modification" and if that is the way you were trained, you and the others that take employment with Bancroft are being misinformed.

Obviously clients behavior modification programs are inadequate. So now we have another problem.

If a behavior is allowed to escalate to the point where a 911 call needs to be made, then the training program is insufficient and Bancroft is doing a disservice to their residents.

The example you should be using is Danielle's because if you do, it puts it all in perspective of the meaning of Danielle's Law and what it is intended for.

As per many web sites that spoke out for this non-verbal child, Danielle had difficulty breathing for over 14 hours, and a reported temperature of 105 degrees. Staff reported that Danielle was pale and panic breathing, yet, did nothing to help her. Everyone failed Danielle because there was not a consistent rule in place to protect vulnerable people like her, nobody knew what to do. If anything, it should give caregivers relief to know that when they experience something as tragic as Danielle's situation, a life and death situation, they have the authority to call 911. I hope that helps you put this in perspective.

An "outburst" or behavior does not in of itself constitute a life threatening emergency. It can be, when a caregiver allows it to get out of control because they weren't trained on the person they are working with.

I would suggest that any caregiver who does not understand the intention of this law, demand more training to fully understand its intent. It may save the life of someone very near and dear to you one day.

Advocate for Danielle's Law

Posted on 10/19/07 at 12:22AM

luvmyjob111 says...

ok so i can't take it anymore, I have been wanting to write something but haven't felt that people with such negativity on here were worth it. You claim you are best of friends with stephens family. I have worked with stephen for years and I know your son as well, I have not seen you on bancroft's campus since your son left. You didn't have the time of day for stephen until he was hospitalized. People need to understand that there are many sides to the story and many people who loved and cared for stephen when he was a resident. People who spent holidays by his side and took him on trips just to spend time with him on days they weren't scheduled to work with approval of course. It was a horrible accident and many people are completely devastated by the incident. He is greatly missed and dearly

loved. Stephen lived in the care of Bancroft for more years than he lived anywhere else and you feel it's ok to try and tear down the only home he ever knew. You should be ashamed of yourself. Anybody who wants to know the truth should work at Bancroft and see the million acts of kindness that occur daily. Bad things sometimes happen and it is tragic and devastating but it is handled at Bancroft in a very positive way. The students at Bancroft are very loved and supported. The staff and wonderful and unique. Not many people can do the job of the staff at Bancroft and they do it everyday and you hear very few complaints. People go as far as to be overly protective of students who are assigned to new staff because they care so much for the students that they are nervous about leaving them in anyone else's care. It has nothing to do with fear of abuse or neglect just pure love for the kids. The staff get aggressed on, bodily fluids thrown at them, torn up, and torn down and they go back everyday with no hatred towards the students but love and respect for the individuals served. So to all that are reading this please understand it does not end with the writings of those who think it is ok to make ridiculous accusations against hardworking compassionate people.

Posted on 10/19/07 at 10:20PM

luv4my2sons says...

I would like to clarify something that you wrote, luvmyjob. I was referring to a group home that Stephen and my son were in together prior to his current one.. Stephen and my son, both parents, along with my husband, became close during that time they were in that prior group home..The one that went through 7 program managers in one year..

Our sons endured abuse during that time.

Till this day, and even since our son was thrown out of Bancroft, we have been in contact on a weekly basis with Stephens family and other families, because they became part of our family from the time we spent with them at the group home, prior to his current one. We sat on committees together. We still share stories about our children..We share funny stories on something they did that was cute, or amazing accomplishments.

I have been hearing about his great accomplishments within the last two years since he has been in his new group home.

My husband and I were devistated upon Stephens loss, as we felt he was our extended son. Each time we entered into the group home, he greeted us with the smile. We have good memories of all the good and wonderful times we shared in the group home.

We were not on the campus because our son does not attend that facility anymore.

This is not about the school, because I feel the Bancroft school and vocational programs are run very well, and have very good and wonderful teachers, aides, and one on ones, and a good and caring principal, because of the fact that there are administrators within the relms of the building.

This is about residential.

About a year ago, in one of the many conversations I had with one of Stephens parents, how happy their son was in the last few years being in this current group home, and I was happy for him.

I said that with all that Stephen went through in the past, I was glad to hear how happy he was in his new group home.

There are good and wonderful staff at Bancroft. It is those that are abusive, which unfortunately, tear down the good work that the good staff as yourself do.

It is sad especially when the families try to work with the administrators, in trying to convey that there was abuse to their son/daughter in which they look the other way. And then two of our sons prior abuse cases, where the staff who did abuse my son, the investigation got white washed, and then even

during the investigations my sons abusers were still in the group homes, and other group homes... My son had to see his attacker on group outings...I am speaking for all the families of Bancroft who has endured this..

This is not about the staff...This is about the system needing improvement. What I think isn't fair, is the pay you make, who do all the work, and the administrators making very high end salary.

When my son was still at Bancroft..My husband and myself stood before the State House steps fighting for staff pay increase, even yours.

The administrators continuously asked the families to rally against Matthews Law, which I regret, because we need that law to increase safety for the clients.

I loved Stephen, and I know the staff who cared for him loved him.

No one is tearing down the integrity of the staff at Bancroft that are doing a good job.

This is a systemic issue that needs to be corrected

I know there are dedicated and good staff there and was there even when my son was there..And my son still misses those staff.

It is wrong for you to say, that I didn't have the time of day for Stephen. I always was in contact with the family. and the memories that our family still had for Stephen were very strong, and the family, who I know are the greatest family, always were good advocate for their son. And were very appreciative for the staff who did care for him.

I just wanted to make myself clear.

Thank you.

I

Posted on 10/20/07 at 10:54AM

luvmydaughto says...

I am also a parent of a daughter who resides in a Bancroft group home. My daughter also lived at the Lindens as well as graduating from the school and now attending the vocational program. First of all my heart goes out to the parents who have lost children! What upsets me is to read all the venom about Bancroft. Like all institutions that care for our vulnerable children it is under funded which leads to the staff not being paid nearly what they are worth and leads to high turn over. Bancroft cares for people that no other institutions will take and cares for them to the best of their ability. If it were not for Bancroft my daughter who is extremely self-abusive would probably be dead or restrained to a bed in a psychiatric hospital. Instead she lives in a community home and can participate in the world. My daughter was the victim of abuse at her last placement in NY so I know what institution abuse looks like. Is Bancroft perfect NO, far from it. Of course as parents we want them to be that perfect place but being realistic that is not possible. My daughter survived a crisis this past summer that Bancroft staff and administration supported her through. If Bancroft had not she most likely would not be with me today! I have found wonderful caring individual among both the staff and administration but like all institutions I have also found people who were lacking and my experience has been that those

people disappear pretty quickly.I think calling for Bancroft to be closed is chilling to me. Where would people like my daughter go? Wouldn't it be better to work with the administration and the state to strive for that perfection we are looking for as parents.

Posted on 10/27/07 at 2:57PM

help4them says...

Bancroft has a long history of cover up in my opinion. It should be shut down, the children there have and continue to suffer abuse

Posted on 10/27/07 at 4:18PM

help4them says...

scard4life your candor is refreshing and what this world needs. If there is ever testimony then let us all know....who knows some here may join you..... :-) count on it

Posted on 10/27/07 at 4:22PM

help4them says...

Bancroft Day?? PROTEST DAY?

Posted on 10/30/07 at 5:36PM

luv4my2sons says...

Luvmydaughter, I am glad you had a good experience with your daughter. But I feel the abuse and neglect on my son was constant, and got worse all the way up to the adult services. What hurt the most was when he told me someone sexually abused him in the pediatrics community based group homes.

If this happened constantly to your daughter, you would feel differently.

But most of all, it was how the administrators dealt with it, as it was a constant white wash.

The special response unit was helping me decide whether or not to place my son in adult services, and my sons case worker told me that SRU was indindated with case loads of abuse in Pediatrics and Adolescents, but in the adult services, there was fewer. Well it turns out my sons constantly showing us his bruises and who did them to him. My son was clear with his facts....

I really think that there should be some type of Risk Management Program put in place.

Posted on 10/31/07 at 3:01PM

luv4my2sons says...

Luvmydaughter, you were right about one thing, direct care make so little yet,them how come the administrators are aloud to make six figures...

Money is not going to be the answer to getting better care..It is educating them, getting them certified, to tweek out the staff who don;t take their job seriously.....

Posted on 10/31/07 at 3:45PM

stopthemess says...

Shut down the place? My question is, if this place is so horrible why are the parents leaving their children there?

If any of these above mentioned stories are true then the parents of the rest of the people there need to remove them at once! There is no acceptable reason to leave your child in a place like that.

Posted on 10/31/07 at 4:10PM

luv4my2sons says...

There are no options for these families as some have challenging and dangerous behaviors with their autism, hard to manage, and need the 24 hour supervision.

There is a huge waiting list for the developmentally to be placed. Families do not have that option to pull their loved ones out.

You cannot close down a facility as it is need for the clients..We just feel a 'o' tolerance plan should be put into place by the state be put into place to protect the clients.

My son is no longer there, and doing well in another program.

Posted on 10/31/07 at 4:32PM

Snapfish says...

"I think calling for Bancroft to be closed is chilling to me. Where would people like my daughter go?"

That is the sad part about New Jersey.There is no where to go. Do you really think parents want their kid at Bancroft KNOWING that their child can be abused, neglected, and die in their care? Come'on folks get real, just look at their track record. It doesnt take a brain surgeon to realize that there is no such thing as ZERO TOLERANCE" at Bancroft, it doesn't exist, never has.

Posted on 11/05/07 at 10:00PM

luv4my2sons says...

I believe that there never was and is still no such thing as 0 tolerance at this facility.

How can that be when it is believed that NO one on a weekly or daily basis, monitors the group home facilities?

I guess that since a child reports that someone abused him/her, with bruise marks showing, that the beaurocasy from this facility comes out that the verbal clients gets their stories confused.

Some may think they are incompetant. And some say they lie.

Our special children do not know how to lie. But I believe that the staff, and the management do at this facility.

Families need to group as one, and speak. Speak up for your child. Advocate for your children, that is why God gave us these incredible children.
Because if you don't, then some day it may be too late.

Posted on 11/19/07 at 9:42PM

stpthbse says...

I know a family, whose child endured an alleged sexual assault by a former staff at this organization. Their child told them such graphic details, horrific details what was done to him by this former staff. This family was advised not to press charges by a former administrator, that this facility would press charges, against alleged perp.

After several requests by these parents, the Cherry Hill PD, interviewed this client. Prior to this interview, the parents were strongly advised by the PD, NOT to obtain a lawyer to represent there son. Then after several attempts by this family, this alleged perp, former staff, finally was brought down for questioning. The detective told the family they wanted to wait for this former staff, to lawyer up. So she came down to the police dept for a polygraph test..Which she failed 3 times, she nearly gave up her confession, then walked out.

The detective told this family, her lawyer was even discusted with her.

This kind of stuff terrifies me I am just wondering if this will happen to my child

....

These parents were not aloud to view their own son, only the special response team, and the office of the Camden County Prosecutors office.

The family informed me that the findings were unsubstantiated with concerns. This former staff who allegedly sexually assaulted their son, was only charged with disorderly conduct for hitting another client...

I would think that you could read between the lines on what the picture is here.

This young man, also endured being allegedly kicked in the stomach while doing push ups, punched in his arm, leaving incredible horrific bruises on both parts of his body.

The residential director running that group home still holds a position of residential director in a home my child can wind up in.

Then when he was reacting to all of this abuse, he went into aggressive behaviors, this facility threw him in the hospital indicating that he has mental problems...This young man is autistic, with torettes...He is not duly diagnosed.

Then they threw him out onto the streets. From the hospital bed.

This situation sickened me. What about the rest of us, who has children in this facility?

These practices has got to stop NOW!

Posted on 12/01/07 at 12:50PM

Footer