

7/30/2014

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO SB 627 WORK GROUP

RE: LETTER FROM SWVTC FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE



LOCAL HOSPITALS NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE RESIDENT'S MEDICAL NEEDS

I serve as President of Parent Advocacy & Advisory Council of Southwest Virginia, which proudly represents the families of residents living at Southwestern Virginia Training Center. The attached letter is from one of these families, and it is but one example of the **appalling gap in medical care** that awaits these residents when they seek treatment outside SWVTC.

Ms Barbara Holmes' letter states that her brother has been successfully and safely catheterized **three times daily** by SWVTC medical personnel since his admission in 1997.

When an illness required hospitalization, Twin County Regional Hospital, Galax, tried catheterization which failed even after 5 separate attempts. He was transferred to Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, which has earned status as a "Level 1 Trauma Center." After an additional three failed attempts provided no relief for this gentleman, a Urologist arrived at bedside. At this point, several hours later, her brother was experiencing tremendous pain and swelling which required the Urologist administer morphine, as well as a Foley Catheter.

If you wonder why TC families want their loved ones to remain in these specialized facilities called Training Centers, let me encourage you to **put yourself in Ms Holmes place**. Picture your brother, your father in this pain. Imagine your concern and disbelief that a procedure performed three times daily at SWVTC cannot be successfully completed by nursing in a local hospital, or even in a **Level 1 Trauma Center!**

Sincerely,



Wanda R. Robinson,
President, PAAC - SWVTC

July 15, 2014

To Whom it may concern:

My brother (Danny L. Holmes) has made his home at Southwestern Virginia Training Center in Hillsville since 1997. He is 58 years old and has Profound Intellectual Disabilities being classified at approximately one year. He is non-verbal and also suffers numerous serious health issues - including the need for catheterization three times daily.

At 1:00 am on June 20, 2014 Danny was sent by SWVTC to Twin County Regional Hospital ER in Galax, Virginia with a gallstone blocking the hepatic duct causing severe jaundice - he also had a Urinary Tract Infection diagnosed two days earlier. During medical workup, nursing attempted to get a urine sample by catheterization. Two nurses tried 5 times without success. [Please note that nurses at SWVTC have been catheterizing him for over 5 years without any difficulty including his last scheduled catheterization at 7:00 PM the previous evening]. The ER Doctor sent Danny to Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital due to need for specialized Endoscopy to remove the gallstone which could not be performed at Twin County.

Upon arrival at Roanoke Memorial at 7:00 am, I informed his Attending Doctor/ Hospitalist (Dr. Penkulinti) and nurse(Jenifer) of the inability of Twin County to catheterize him with 5 previous attempts that it would probably take a Urologist to do so at that point. I informed them they could attempt 1 time to do so and if that failed, we wanted a Urologist consulted. The Roanoke Memorial nurse's first attempt was also unsuccessful. I immediately requested that a Urologist be consulted and was informed that their Hospital Policy required 3 unsuccessful attempts. Two additional attempts at Roanoke were also unsuccessful - for a total of 8 unsuccessful attempts. Roanoke had at least 4 attending nurses at bedside. Danny had to be administered Morphine for the pain nursing had caused. I then filed a Complaint with a Patient Representative on my brother's behalf to get the Urologist consult. After approximately 2 additional hours a Urologist finally showed up and catheterized Danny at 12:30 pm. After all of the physical trauma to his penis and urethra, from 8 unsuccessful attempts, the Urologist had to use a guidewire and dilation and had to leave a Foley Catheter / bag in for a week. Danny also, as a result, had to be administered antibiotics that continued after discharge.

Nursing at SWVTC told me afterwards that Danny is easy to catheterize and that they never have any difficulty - but at least 5 nurses from 2 Hospitals could not do this simple procedure. Need I remind you that Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center...and their nurses could not even do that simple medical task. Our 82 year old Mother and I were there with Danny for 5 days wandering what else they could not do.

As Virginia contemplates the future of Southwestern Virginia Training Center, our mother and I want to make those with that ultimate responsibility aware of the scary state-of-unpreparedness of the Medical Community outside the Training Center Setting to care for this unique population. Danny and many other Training Center Residents suffer life-threatening medical issues. We are sounding the alarm - Lives are a stake! If Southwestern Virginia Training Center is closed, medically fragile human beings will needlessly SUFFER and needlessly DIE. You have the ability to prevent that from happening. Please do so! Please, allow Southwestern Virginia Training Center, with an on-site Doctor and Nursing / Infirmary to remain open for those who choose that setting as HOME.

Sincerely,



Barbara G. Holmes (Sister)

119 Carriage Drive

Galax, VA 24333

(276) 238-0119



Rebecca R. Holmes (Mother)