



HUDSON VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH

March 1, 2013

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Mr. James L. Coughlan, Comptroller
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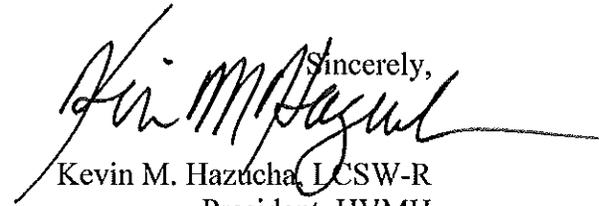
Dear Mr. Coughlan,

This is in response to the final draft Audit Report in connection with your department's review of Hudson Valley Mental Health Inc. (HVMH). On behalf of HVMH, I extend our appreciation to you and your staff for a thoughtful and thorough review of our agency. As we endeavor to provide the best quality services and to do so as efficiently as possible, we find the feedback and the recommendations to be helpful. During the course of the audit, HVMH and FSI have been proactive in addressing and implementing many of the recommendations prior to the release of the Audit Report. It is appreciated that this is acknowledged throughout the document.

Concerning issues noted that are in the process of being addressed please see below:

- Contracted Services (pg. 5) & Billing Oversight (pg. 7)- HVMH adopted a budget for 2013 that includes a new administrative position which will have responsibility of contract management and strengthening/monitoring of internal administrative functions of the agency. This position will report directly to the HVMH President and will work closely with and have some reporting responsibilities to the CFO of FSI in relation to fiscal operations.
- 2010 CFR/Shared Staffing (pg. 5)- HVMH will seek guidance from DMH with regards to changing the 2010 CFR to reflect shared staffing costs.
- HVMH Patient Billing (pg. 6)- HVMH acknowledges that the present HVMH/DMH shared billing system model (including use of current billing software) is challenging and is outside of standard contract arrangements. HVMH also acknowledges and appreciates the considerable supports and assistance that DMH provides through the contract without which it could not provide its current service offerings. It should be noted that a serious challenge to HVMH and DMH is the practice of regulatory agencies to release far reaching, significant and complex reimbursement and operational restructuring strategies with insufficient time and inadequate resources in place for thoughtful and well planned implementation.

In summation, HVMH maintains its commitment to providing comprehensive, integrated and collaborative outpatient mental health treatment services to residents of our community. All supports and feedback which will assist us in this endeavor are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Hazucha, LCSW-R
President, HVMH

CC : James Regan Ph.D. HVMH Board President
Natalie Borquist, CNAP, CFO, FSI
Brian Doyle, CEO FSI
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