



February 10, 2020

Nadine Dexter, Chief Executive Officer
West Hills Behavioral Health Hospital
1240 East Ninth St.
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Ms. Dexter,

West Hills Hospital submits Seclusion/Restraint forms to the Commission on Behavioral Health for review and feedback as required by law. We recently returned the Seclusion/Restraint forms we reviewed at our last meeting along with our concerns, primarily about the use of Thorazine in Chemical Restraint and the lack of follow-through in prevention planning for future events.

This is the definition of Chemical Restraint as defined by Nevada Revised Statute 433.5456:
“Chemical restraint” means the administration of drugs for the specific and exclusive purpose of controlling an acute or episodic aggressive behavior when alternative intervention techniques have failed to limit or control the behavior. The term does not include the administration of drugs on a regular basis, as prescribed by a physician, to treat the symptoms of mental, physical, emotional or behavioral disorders and for assisting a person in gaining self-control over his or her impulses.

Our concerns are that Thorazine is being used before alternative intervention techniques have been tried, that other medications might be more appropriate for the treatment of children, and that more effort could be made in prevention planning.

We would like a written response to our concerns, a corrective action plan, by March 1, 2020, mailed to the address below. We would also like to invite your medical director and authorized staff to attend our next meeting on March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM, at the Division of Child and Family Services, Northern Nevada Child & Adolescent Services, 2655 Enterprise Road, Reno, Nevada 89512 to speak to our concerns.

We appreciate your partnership in making Nevada a safer and healthier place for our children. Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Lisa Durette, MD, DFAPA, DFAACAP
E-mail: lisa.durette@gmail.com

cc: Christina Zuniga, West Hills Director, Clinical Services Risk Management/Performance Improvement