

Town of Acton
Commission on Disabilities (COD)
Executive Session
MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Town Hall, Room 126

Present:

Full Members: Mady Harvey (Chair), Lisa Franklin, Nancy (Ann) Corcoran, Danny Factor, Leslie Johnson.

Associate Members: Joan Burrows, Franny Osman

Others: Xxxxx and Yyyyy (family member of Xxxxx)

In regular session, the commission voted unanimously to go into executive session. Executive Session commenced at [time?]. Once in executive session, the commission voted unanimously to allow Xxxxx and Yyyyy (a family member of Xxxxx) to attend.

Danny and Leslie reported that they met with Acton Medical Associates (AMA) Chief Operating Officer Joseph Berman. Danny and Leslie reported that Mr. Berman refused to have Xxxxx present stating that he would not be permitted on the grounds stating that some staff at AMA considered him to be a threat, but he could not elaborate further and could not provide an example of such. Berman stated that AMA has no written office policy about the manner in which AMA staff interacts with people with mental health disabilities, and AMA has no specific training program to regularly educate staff about interactions with people with mental health disabilities. When asked, Mr. Berman stated that he had never heard of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) which has a local office and is a resource in our area. Danny and Leslie further reported that Mr. Berman at first stated that Xxxxx was terminated for the reason that he refused to allow AMA to communicate with his other medical providers; this narrative is denied by Xxxxx. Later in the meeting with Xxxxx, Mr. Berman stated that Xxxxx was terminated as a patient because it was determined that he posed a threat to staff. Xxxxx stated that his termination as a patient has continued to cause him harm, such as anxiety, sleeping problems, and hardship finding medical care. Franny stated that she thought that AMA should have a written policy on such matters.

Danny proposed that he and Leslie draft a letter to AMA (and possibly other parties) urging that they take specific actions to make the practice more accessible to people

with mental health disabilities and that the letter be reviewed at the November COD meeting in Executive session. The proposal passed 4 in favor (Mady, Danny, Leslie, Nancy) and 1 abstention (Lisa).

The commission then voted unanimously to adjourn from executive session at [time not recorded].