

August 29, 2011

Mrs. Diane Anand
Executive Director
Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
3303 Wilshire Blvd Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90010

RE: Beatrice Lee
Community Placement
Vagthols Residential Care Center

Dear Mrs. Anand,

I am writing you to share my views and the joyfulness in my heart ever since my daughter, Bea, moved to the community particularly to the Vagthols home, which is owned and run by Mrs. Ann Seisa. For four decades, Bea had lived at the Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona and, with its impending closure, had to relocate to the community. Bea moved to Vagthols #2 on July 22nd, 2010.

Before I met Mrs. Seisa, I was not very keen in moving Bea out of LDC and have her placed in a residential home. I am a retired, licensed clinical social worker and, over the years, had seen poorly-managed residential facilities. This somehow had made me skeptical and was against community placement until I was fortunate to be introduced to Ann by Bea's social worker, Carol Kaplan.

I have nothing but praises and appreciation to Ann, her wonderful and dedicated staff, and team of professional consultants. In the course of her stay at Vagthols, I have observed some slow yet steady progress on Bea's wellness: (1) six months following her placement, she is no longer on anti-depressant (Prozac 200 mg) – yet, her mood is much better, smiles when talked to and moreover, she started making some sounds like jabbering; (2) her overweight problem has improved losing as much as 13 lbs. with healthy diets and more activities; (3) her gait has improved so much; she now ambulates for 30 minutes every day with a 5 minute rest in between; (4) her toilet training has resulted to success in her bladder & bowel movement; (5) her previous habit of putting her head down to her wheelchair lap tray has diminished – basically, she no longer experiences feelings of despair and does not need to crunch her head down; (6) her dry skin has become smooth; (7) her menstrual cycle became regular. I do weekly visits to the home and Bea's overall progress has amazed me, thanks to the dedicated work and care by the Vagthols staff under Mrs. Seisa's supervision and leadership.

I fervently hope that, through this letter, the Regional centers and other organizations responsible for the welfare of these individuals with developmental disabilities will endeavor to make available more reliable and caring residential homes (like Vagthols), including day program facilities which will house or take in these people

before the planned closure of the developmental centers occurs. In this way, parents and families of the DC residents will not hesitate – unlike in my case, thank goodness I found a Vagthols home – to move out and place their sons or daughters in the community.

Sincerely yours,

Bernadette H. Lee
Mother