

From: Irene Mccabe <irenemccabe3@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 6:44 AM
To: Erin Raub <Eraub@pahousegop.com>
Subject: house hearing oct 21

Subject: Polk Center Act 3 Hearing

Governor Wolf-

I'll make this simple. If you want facts, examples, police reports, or any other documentation I can provide it. My 22 year old daughter Maggie Gall is mentally ill and mentally challenged. She is court ordered to Polk because she has tried facilities at the McGuire Home, Residential Treatment Facilities in Erie and Belmont, Ohio and group homes in Pittsburgh, Hermitage, Washington County, and two more in Beaver County.

She melts down and assaults untrained staff, jumped in Lake Shenango and swam towards the dam, lays in the middle of highways, and escapes and runs into dangerous situations. The police don't know what to do with her. After a few tries for a 302 - where she is a perfect target for sexual predators and she has been sexually assaulted twice. Then she tells the medical staff that she no longer has any plans to harm herself or others and she is back on the street. The only recourse for the police is to arrest her and put her in jail. I am speaking as her father that loves her but can't control her illness.

I have also been a police officer for 44 years and I see this happen to other mentally ill people over and over because there is no place to put these people. They should be put in a place like Polk where they are dealt with by trained staff and have other people like themselves to spend time with and feel like they belong. Instead they are put into a community home with two staff members who talk and laugh with each other and leave them out of the equation.

Ironically, I watch the Wolf administration let real criminals out on parole as soon as they reach their minimum sentence at an alarming rate. I guess the real criminals need to free up space, so that the mentally ill can be incarcerated in their place.

Andrew Gall

724 869 0317