



Contact:

Kim Miller, Director of Corporate Development
(304) 525-7851, Extension 1505
(304) 741-3616 (cell)
kim.miller@prestera.org

POSITION STATEMENT

Huntington and Charleston, WV: Recently in West Virginia, on May 10, 2021, a Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability meeting was convened in Charleston at the WV State Capitol. Statements made about abuse and neglect occurring in residential settings in no way represent Prestera Center for Mental Health Services, Inc. Prestera Center’s mission is dedicated to helping people achieve their full potential.

At the meeting, the WV DHHR’s Office of Health Facilities, Licensure and Certification or OHFLAC, (the state’s regulatory body that licenses behavioral healthcare providers and facilities) testified about several abuse and neglect investigations where abuse or neglect contributed to client death. Over 800 organizations across West Virginia are licensed behavioral health providers. While OHFLAC staff did not identify the specific organization(s) involved; it is important to note that this in no way represents Prestera Center’s values or culture. Prestera Center’s CEO, Lisa Zappia, said, “It’s disturbing that all West Virginia providers have been lumped together in the astonishing abuse and neglect of vulnerable clients in West Virginia. We take abuse and neglect very seriously and will not tolerate it.”

Prestera Center takes pride in serving all clients with respect and dignity. Staff training is rigorous and thorough and emphasizes evidence-based practices and being restraint free. All staff complete training in abuse and neglect, client rights, incident reporting, emergency procedures, and non-violent crisis prevention and intervention. Prestera Center complies with OHFLAC reporting and regulatory requirements that includes yearly residential site visits.

Since 1967 Prestera Center has been leading the way in mental health and substance use treatment, recovery and supportive services at fifty-five different locations across eight counties in West Virginia. Each year Prestera Center’s 570 staff members strive to provide high quality care to eighteen thousand adults, children and families, regardless of ability to pay. For more information on Prestera Center, visit online at www.prestera.org, like us on Facebook or call toll free (877) 399-7776.

###