

Julie Potter
Gray
LD 1866

The Department of Health and Human Services needs to contract with DRM, an independent agency, to provide advocacy services on a statewide basis to individuals with serious mental illness who are residing in those individuals' communities such as residential facilities because these advocates are many times a person's only access to seeking help when they feel unheard, oppressed or if they are experiencing any abuses or injustices within those facilities. They otherwise would have no other real recourse to get there needs met that were protected from retaliatory actions by agencies, facilities, and or staff members. Also, clinical people would have no reason to be accountable for any missteps that violate the rights of the people seeking services. Thank you for your time.