

EXHIBIT 9
DATE Jan 19, 2005
HB _____Victoria T. Treece
65 South Eudora Street
Denver, Colorado 80246TO: Montana Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Financial Committee

January 18, 2005

RE: PACT Program and Family of Client Cathy Thompson

Dear Committee;

For a number of years now, my sister Cathy Thompson has had the good fortune to be a vital part of your PACT program. The interaction and oversight management she has received from the PACT team of social service personnel has enabled her to not only maintain a contained personality which functions independently, and to some extent, resourcefully, but to actually, as we come to expect in healthy, mature adults, develop and explore various interests and facets of her personality and abilities. What I have learned and witnessed from this is that no matter what labels and stigma we come to believe about mentally challenged, or if preferred, mentally disabled individuals, underneath lies an ego with all the similar needs for self gratification and social acceptance as those of the greater population we consider normal. And if these needs of the former can be addressed constructively and within an environment, which is structured and offers caring and creative reinforcement as it provides essential monitoring, a stable, self-sufficient, and pretty much happy person emerges.

Cathy is 62 years old and has suffered from schizophrenia since age 20, being stricken with this disease while in her second year of college. She has been institutionalized, institutionally sexually brutalized, abandoned by various, former social service organizations, and has, some many years ago, exhibited the most extreme, bizarre social behavior. Today, she continues to amaze her family by her continued stable personality and (as relative to her), maturity. We know, that if not for the PACT program which sees Cathy consistently and is alerted to initial psychological problems which can be headed off and/or dealt with, Cathy could easily have been institutionalized, hospitalized, or have experienced some devastating event while attempting to function in the community with little oversight care or structure.

The PACT program is working beyond any of our expectations. We express our sincere gratitude for those working within this program and for those with the clout and ability to ensure that it continues as an essential helping arm for the mentally ill.

Sincerely,

Victoria T. Treece

