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EXHIBIT 22  
DATE 1-15-07  
RE 2

Madame Chairperson, Edith Clark, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anne M. Tappe-Scarff. I thank you for the opportunity to come here today and speak to you about my family and our experience with the mental health community.

My husband Mark and I have permanent guardianship of my two great nephews. The boys were removed from their home because of abuse and neglect. As a result of their birth home both of my sons are severely emotionally disturbed and have post traumatic stress disorder.

When Dana and Cetan came to live with us six years ago, Dana was a child on the fight. He was aggressive and did not trust any adult he came across. Cetan did everything he could to be invisible and tried to blend into the woodwork. Cetan went through his first year of Head Start without speaking a word. With the help of a social worker, two therapists, and Marvin Williams we were able to get the boys into the Intermountain Day Treatment program.

My oldest son, Dana, graduated from Day Treatment in September of 2005. Cetan will graduate January 22 of this year.

For our family the Day Treatment program has been priceless. We went into treatment as a family. Dana and Cetan have been given tools to deal with all the ups and downs they will probably deal with all of their lives. Mark and I have learned a whole different approach to parenting so we are more proactive instead of fumbling along and reacting to situations that come along. We are a real and forever family, our son Dana no longer thinks he has to fight the whole world to be safe. At twelve years old he knows that he can be a kid that no longer has to worry if his birth parents have left him and his brothers alone for him to take care of. He does not have to check to make sure doors and windows are locked. Dana is able to show the world what a nice kid he is. There was a time when Mark and I felt we were the only two people on earth that knew that Dana is a gem. Our youngest son, Cetan, at eleven years old is no longer invisible. He now has a voice and it is music to our ears. I would tell the staff that Cetan was a very witty kid with a good sense of humor and they did not believe me because they were only seeing a quiet child that was trying to be invisible. With the hard work of staff and family and most important Cetan, the staff finally saw what a wonderful kid that had been hiding from the world all these years. Dana and Cetan are children that can accept love and return love, Cetan was ten years old when he gave me his first real kiss and hug. I would like to add that my son Dana was diagnosed with leukemia in January 2006. He is in remission and his prognosis is good. During the last year all the Day Treatment staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Staff would transport Cetan to my sister's house after school. Anything we needed they were there to help. When Cetan was just starting on the basketball team, which was very important to his treatment, staff helped with transportation and did everything they could to make the season a success for Cetan. He was successful.

The help that my family has received has made it possible for our children to go out into the world with the skills they need to be productive citizens. Our sons understand about their meds and the importance of them. They will be people that know when to say "houston we got a problem". The chances of them being in the criminal justice system is much lower and Mark and I have a better chance of enjoying empty nest syndrome.

My message to you, Madame Chairperson, and Members of the Committee is that Intermountain is just one of many agencies that is out there in the state of Montana doing everything in their power to help children. During the time my family has been at Intermountain I was asked and accepted to be on the Helena KMA Committee as a parent member, I do not represent the Helena KMA, I represent my family, having said that, I see at every meeting many people that have made it their mission in life to help every child they can.

I have been involved with the mental health systems for many years and the one thing I know is that this state does not lack people that will go the extra mile for children; what it lacks is the state's willingness to fund these programs. I am here today to ask this committee to be the voice for my children and all the children like them in Montana. I ask you to convey to the Governor, the House and Senate that our children are important. My belief is that we need to care for the children early on or the price tag will be greater when they are adults. Today I ask this committee to recommend a substantial increase in funding for the sake of all the children.

Thank You

  
Anne M Tappe Scarff.