

News Release—January 24th, '08

As patient advocates, we attended the Alaska Psychiatric Institute's Advisory Board meeting today, January 24th, '08.

In the open meeting, Mr. Ronald Adler, CEO of API stated that the forensic unit was full and there is a waiting list. Mr. Adler also stated that DHSS suggested that if API forensic unit was full, API could just start putting forensic patients in non-forensic units. Mr. Adler stated that if the courts ordered API to accept forensic patients past their capacity (10), that API would refuse and accept a contempt of court order if necessary.

Laurance Mailey, M.D., (psychiatrist) one of two doctors in charge of API's forensic unit, said he was personally opposed to mixing forensic patients with civilly committed or voluntary patients.

As patient advocates, we are strongly against mixing forensic patients with civilly committed and voluntary patients, especially criminals that are sexual predators or who have committed violent crimes. And we believe the law supports our position, or should.

API for the last 15 years has had a 10 bed forensic unit even though there has been a dramatic increase in the prison population.

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If you need more information call us at 929-0532.

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