



**WHISTLEBLOWER
COMMENTS TO
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT**

In response to #1 (a) Again the OSC complaint that I filed was in reference to the program when my authority as the program coordinator was removed by management to implement an agenda that was in violation of the law and excluded veterans and facilities from the program. Because I would not agree to implement the wrongful changes, I was removed from my position and subsequently fired. The OMI's investigation did not address the abuse of power and the issues at the time in question. The OMI focused rather on the current program which would not represent nor address the problems at the time the complaint was filed. There were 60-70 veterans in the program with 25 CRC facilities. A huge difference from current programming of 18 veterans. The fact that I could not remember the name of a veteran does not excuse the OMI from conducting a full investigation. To simply not review further and not speak with the individuals who were actively involved during the time the report was filed is unacceptable. Nor does it address the abuse of power that was exercised in relation to my removal. No protection was ever afforded me as the whistleblower and disciplinary action taken with those in power who were responsible and committed the abuses. I did not deserve to lose my job and be removed from the Coordinator position. The CRC program under my leadership excelled and was seen across the country as a model program. The first and second line supervisors wanted to restrict and limit placements to only veterans aligned with mental health. The program was established to meet the needs of ALL veterans who require the level of personal care managed in a residential setting. There were many many veterans who were lost to follow up when CRC facilities were wrongfully removed from program oversight. Limiting the range of follow up to 30 miles of the medical center is also in conflict with the national directive to serve veterans in their communities. Under my leadership the program met that directive and we established facilities in the communities where veterans lived throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana. The program was available to any veteran in need of personal care assistance as it was intended when first established by law.

The OMI stated the veteran placement reviewed were in approved facilities. Of course the current 18 they reviewed are in approved facilities. The OMI should have reviewed all placements made from inpatient psychiatry prior to May of 2012. Not placements made in the CRC program but rather the placements that were made in non - approved facilities and excluding all involvement of the CRC program. That review would have revealed multiple violations of the law. The abuse of power by management in mandating that the social workers not contact the CRC program but rather place veterans in non - approved facilities outside of the regulation.

In #1 (b), #2 (a)(b) and (c) and in #3 (a) OMI stated they did not interview employees involved in placements prior to May 2012 therefore they did not address the complaint which reported the abuse of power violations. Interviewing current staff who had no knowledge of the violations and problems at the time the complaint was filed did not address the complaint. Focusing on the program after it has undergone substantial changes (substantial reduction in facilities and veterans being served) is not an acceptable response or an appropriate investigation.

Reviewing one or two placements when guardians were involved does not address the multiple placements made outside of the CRC program. Reviewing only CRC placements and not reviewing other placements does not demonstrate what was happening by excluding the CRC program from involvement. Of course the CRC placements would be appropriate. We worked hand in hand with the

VBA fiduciary department. Identifying the abuse of power in directing staff to place outside of the program and to use non approved boarding homes would never be discovered by not investigating all placements made. Again the complaint was not addressed by the OMI investigation. Again there was no acknowledgement of the suffering and wrongful actions I endured at the hands of unethical and abusive management. The problems that should have been uncovered remain hidden and covered up by management that abused their power and authority. I was left to remain the scapegoat for the actions of leaders who should be held accountable for their unethical behavior and unlawful manipulation of staff. I should have been re-instated and promoted for doing the right thing rather than dismissed and left out to dry. As a tenured employee with 26 years of service, serving on the National CRC Field Advisory Board, who never had a disciplinary action and whose contributions were acknowledged on a National level and expertise sought after by CRC coordinators across the country, I lose my job. This is not justice or protection to those of us who believe in the system and took a risk to speak out.

Response Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Seng