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February 13, 2019

The Honorable Bill Stankiewicz
Mayor of Hogansville
204 Johnson Street
Hogansville, Georgia 30230

Dear Mayor Stankiewicz:

I write to express concern over the plans to issue a permit for the development of a group home and school for troubled children in Hogansville, and to ask a couple of questions. Unfortunately, your public forums on this matter have taken place on evenings when I have been otherwise disposed. Therefore, I could not attend. I did, however, ask two of my senior staff members to attend the last meeting on the issue and to gather and bring back details of the plans for the facility. I am not sure that I have a complete understanding of what is being proposed by Dr. McCamey and therefore cannot, in good conscience, come out as being completely opposed to the plan. However, I have learned enough to be concerned.

1. How does DFACS feel about these plans? Do they support it?

My experience with DFACS is that they really don't divide kids into those on the deprivation side of the ledger and those on the delinquent side as Dr. McCamey seemed to intimate. Therefore, group homes will probably include at least some delinquent cases and they will include children from outside of Troup County.

2. How is the accreditation of this private school going to work?

Again my experience with accrediting agencies is that a school must be in existence for five years before they will be considered for accreditation. If DFACS will only send children to accredited schools and it takes five years before you are accredited, where do those kids go to school during the first five years? Exactly how does that work?

3. If for some reason Dr. McCamey's plan for developing a fully accredited and highly specialized school for his clients falls through, will the group home still be permitted to operate?

If the answer is "yes," then who will assume responsibility for the education of these children?

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My concern is that the answer to that question will be the public school system; specifically Callaway Middle School and Callaway High School. That would be very problematic in that such an influx of troubled youth into the two schools surely will overtax the resources we have available and potentially produce an unmanageable situation at both schools for the regular student body.

4. Is there any way that the permit for the group home can be made dependent upon the creation and maintenance of the fully accredited and highly specialized school that Dr. McCamey described in his remarks at your last meeting on the topic?

This would make sure that the very troubled children in his care receive the highly specialized educational environment that they need and at the same time this plan would assure the citizens of Hogansville that the public schools which their children attend will not be overburdened by an influx of youth with severe personal and psychological issues.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and suggestions. Also, thank you for the service that you and the Hogansville City Council perform for the citizens of Hogansville and Troup County each and every day.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy D. Nichols, Jr., Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

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