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**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH**  
...in pursuit of good health**FAX**

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**To:** Rep. Guy Travaglio  
**Office:** Butler  
**Fax #:** (724) 284-8253  
**Phone #:** (724) 283-5852  
:  
**Pages:** 3, including cover sheet

**From:** Deborah M. Griffiths  
**Title:** Director of Legislative Affairs  
**Fax #:** 717-772-6959  
**Phone #:** 717-783-3985  
**Date:** July 8, 2002

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**MESSAGE:*****Re: Butler Co. health center/community college hearing***

This is to update you on the DOH's continued activities to provide clinical public health services in Butler County. The information on the attached letter sent to you from former Dep. Sec. Gurian, dated Aug. 14, 2001, is current in this new fiscal year, with the exception of one of the three "Children's Community Care" sites listed for immunizations. -- the Evans City Road site was closed by the provider, and we will get the new address for you shortly.

As you know, a public health nurse was assigned to Butler County starting in the just-concluded fiscal year, working out of the DPW offices in Butler. She attends numerous community events/meetings and conducts outreach -- the core public health functions of community assessment, client referral and service coordination.

Please feel free to call with any questions, of course --

Thank you

***Deborah M. Griffiths***



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

August 14, 2001

The Honorable Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.  
House Box 202020  
4 B Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-202020

Dear Representative Travaglio:

This is in response to your recent letter to Governor Tom Ridge regarding clinical public health services in Butler County. As you are aware, the Department of Health's contract with Butler Memorial Hospital ended on June 30, 2001. During the last year of that contract, health care providers located in the area, including Butler Memorial Hospital, were approached to determine their interest in contracting with the Department of Health to provide an expanded level of the same four public health clinical services (Sexually Transmitted Disease, HIV counseling and testing, Tuberculosis, and Immunizations). Butler Memorial Hospital elected not to pursue a new agreement. The Department therefore proceeded to develop alternatives to that contract.

I am pleased to advise you that the following community based providers are providing the four clinical services:

1. Sexually Transmitted Disease.  
Family Health Council, Inc. of Pittsburgh is providing STD services at 165 Brugh Avenue, Butler, PA 16001, and at Slippery Rock University Health Center, 255 Grove City Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.
2. HIV counseling and testing:
  - a. Irene Stacy Community Mental Health Center, d/b/a Butler Armstrong AIDS Alliance, 112 Hillvue Drive, Butler, PA 16001.
  - b. Center for Behavioral Health PA, Inc., d/b/a Discovery House, 301 Smith Drive, Suite 3, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.
3. Tuberculosis.  
In the years 1999 through 2001 there was one active case of disease of TB in Butler County. As potential cases occur, TB services will be provided by public health staff in Butler County and referred to clinical services as needed.

Representative Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.

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August 14, 2001

4. Immunizations:

- a. Children's Community Care:
  - i. Two Landmark North, 20397 Route 19, Suite 126, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.
  - ii. Zinkhamm Insurance Building, 602 Evans City Road, Suite 204, Butler, PA 16001.
  - iii. 619 South Pike road, Sarver, PA 16055.
- b. Cranberry Pediatrics, 3 Saint Francis Way, Suite 104, Butler, PA 16066.

In addition, the Department has assigned a public health professional to Butler County to provide public health core functions such as assessment, policy development, service coordination, and referral in support of individual and community health efforts.

Your concern that information was not shared with your office when requested has been addressed with the Southwest District Director, Susan Myers. Standard protocol for legislative requests is to refer them to our Office of Legislative Affairs. However, it was appropriate for Ms. Myers to respond directly to your office with such information and we regret any miscommunication that may have occurred.

If you have additional questions, please contact Deborah Griffiths, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs, at (717) 783-3985. Thank you again for your concern and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

8/13/01

Gary L. Gurian  
Deputy Secretary for  
Public Health Programs

cc: Senator Mary Jo White  
Representative Elinor Z. Taylor



GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER  
 HOUSE BOX 202020  
 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
 PHONE: (717) 787-7686  
 FAX: (717) 783-3554

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
 138 EAST JEFFERSON STREET  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA 16001  
 PHONE: (724) 283-5852  
 FAX: (724) 284-8259

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 HARRISBURG

July 5, 2001

COMMITTEES:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUB-COMMITTEE  
 CHAIR ON TOWNSHIPS  
 TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
 POLICY  
 SOUTHWEST CAUCUS  
 NORTHWEST CAUCUS  
 VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Honorable Tom Ridge, Governor  
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 225 Main Capitol Building  
 Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Governor Ridge:

It has come to my attention that the PA Department of Health has not renewed the Health Center Contract with Butler Memorial Hospital, which is located in my Legislative District. This Health Center provided vital services, such as immunizations, counseling and testing for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, as well as testing for tuberculosis, etc. This joint effort was part of your plan to eliminate the State Health Centers in three (3) counties in Pennsylvania. This plan was brought before the Legislature three (3) years ago, at which time I was against it - I am still against taking the Health Center away from the residents of Butler County.

What alarms me is that at no time has anyone from the Department of Health, either from Harrisburg or Pittsburgh, contacted my office or another elected official from Butler County to alert us to yet another change that this is going to take place - a change which would affect the well-being of the residents of Butler County. When my office called Susan Myers in the Pittsburgh Office of the Department of Health, who is responsible for this area, we were told to call a Harrisburg number to get any information. If Ms Myers is responsible for this area, then she should have been the one to call me first about this change.

This year's budget provided a 12.8% increase in the appropriation for State Health Centers. With this increase in funding and the failure of your pilot program for the three (3) Health Centers, I am requesting that you return these Health Centers back to the residents of the three counties which were eliminated. I would also request a status report of what the Department of Health plans to do and the timetable for its institution.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.  
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
 11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

GAT:jg

cc: Robert S Zimmerman, Secretary/Department of Health  
 Senator Mary Jo White/Senate of Pennsylvania  
 Representative Elinor Z Taylor/House of Representatives

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER  
 HOUSE BOX 202020  
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 FAX: (724) 284-8253



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 HARRISBURG  
 November 13, 2001

*Guy &  
Fred*

*F Y I*

Senator Mary Jo White  
 Senate of Pennsylvania  
 168 Main Capitol Building  
 Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Senator White:

Since I will not be able to attend the meeting scheduled in your office on November 14<sup>th</sup>, regarding current health services available, I would like to respectfully submit the following questions, which I would like to have addressed:

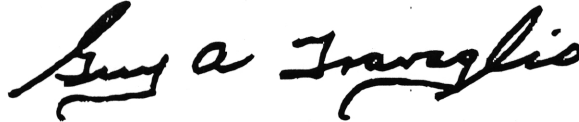
1. When will an operational office be available to the citizens in Butler County vs. a desk in the Welfare office? Will there be a nurse with secretarial support?
2. Will phone calls be answered by the Armstrong County office in the future? What proportion of the phone calls received in the Armstrong County office are from Butler County residents?
3. If an office is cost prohibitive, what was the cost of the Pilot Project vs. State Health Center?
4. What was the cost of the Pilot Project?
5. Concerns have been raised regarding PPAs (Preferred Provider Agreements):
  - a. Immunization: Four sites have been set up, (2) in Cranberry, (1) in Butler and (1) in Sarver.
    - i. What about Northern Butler County?
    - ii. Physicians are concerned about seeing other doctor's patients. One concern is as follows:
      1. A child is seen by a PPA physician and given immunizations. The next day the child's parent is concerned that the child is having a reaction to the vaccine. Who do they see about it? The physician that gave the vaccine is reluctant to see the child, because this is not their patient. The child's own physician is reluctant to see the child, because he didn't give the vaccine. WHERE DOES THE PARENT TAKE THIS CHILD?
      2. If physicians do not choose to continue with the PPA, what type of continuity does this create for Butler citizens? This potential change would seem to create needless confusion and result in poor service to our citizens.
    - iii. What about adult immunization services such as flu clinics? The PPA only serves children?

Page 2

- b. Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Two sites have been set up at Family Planning clinics. Concerns in this regard are:
    - i. How comfortable will these sites be for men to seek out services, because they are generally female centered? Will gay men be comfortable seeing services in these sites?
    - ii. If individuals have moral objections to Family Planning over abortion issues, how willing will they be to go there for services?
  - c. TB services have been returned to the State Health Department, and Butler County residents are being seen in the Beaver, Lawrence and Armstrong Counties. With no physical office available in Butler, does this mean residents must travel 20-40 miles one way to be seen in either Kittanning, Beaver, or New Castle? How well will traveling these distances serve Butler County residents?
6. How are the Hodge Funds, that were willed to be used in Butler County, being accessed? SAFEKIDS organization reapplied for funds in June of this year and have heard nothing regarding the application. SAFEKIDS has partnered with the State and Local Police, fire stations, Catholic Charities and other agencies to provide infant car seats, bicycle helmets, smoke detectors and the educational materials surrounding the use of these articles to families in need in Butler County. Where are these funds? What is the current balance of these funds? Who has control over them? How will they be accessed in the future?

I would appreciate having these concerns addressed. If you need any additional information regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to receiving a response.

Sincerely yours,



GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

GAT:jg

Questions to ask:

1. When will an operational office be available to the citizens in Butler County vs. a desk in the Welfare office? Will there be a nurse with secretarial support?
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

September 20, 2001

The Honorable Mary Jo White  
Senate Box 203021  
168 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3049

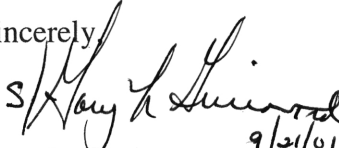
Dear Senator White:

This is in response to your recent letter concerning public health services in Butler County. As you are aware, "public health core functions" will be provided by a public health professional physically located in Butler County, at the Department of Welfare, 108 Woody Drive, Butler, Pennsylvania 16003. Those core functions include community assessment, service coordination and client referral. This public health nurse is also supported by an additional staff and staff from the adjoining counties of Armstrong and Beaver on an ongoing basis. Clinical services are provided through a number of community-based organizations and our nurse.

We believe our community health nurse will effectively address public health needs. We also have the ability to mobilize additional staff as needed, should the nurse identify specific circumstances which merit increased staff, and will certainly exercise flexibility in that regard.

Deborah Griffiths, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Health, will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a meeting to discuss Butler County services. Thank you again for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Gurian

9/21/01

cc: •Honorable Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.  
Honorable Jane Clare Orié  
Honorable Daryl Metcalf  
Honorable Frank LaGrotta  
Honorable Richard Stevenson