

ALL INVESTIGATIONS BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON DHS INTERVIEWS

EVIDENCE AND EXPERT TESTIMONY DISREGARDED

DISABLED NON VERBAL VICTIM

JUSTICE NOT SERVED

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The investigation unsubstantiated that the victim was neglected by a caregiver employed with the SCC. (Steven Rusin, 1.30.23)

Ol cannot employ the use of any type of police tactics when interviewing, Ol can only attempt to reconcile the inconsistencies through further interviewing. (Jill Andres, 5.18.23)

There were numerous inconsistencies regarding the testimony from staff, further hampering Ol's ability to substantiate the allegations. (Jill Andres, 5.18.23)

In the event that Ol is made aware that OCPO has pressed criminal charges, Ol will update the investigation report accordingly. (Jill Andres, 5.18.23)

Based on new information provided, the GH manager was not truthful during her interview. (Deborah Robinson, 9.8.23)

What are the consequences of this as my special needs daughter continues to suffer from her injuries? (Mother of the victim, 9.8.23)

The incidents are closed and it is expected that the agency will take appropriate actions to address. (Deborah Robinson, 9.8.23)

Will the Special Children's Center finally be shut down and lose their license to operate? (Mother of the victim, 9.8.23)

DHS cannot comment. (Deborah Robinson, 9.8.23)

Despite proof of injuries, CIMU investigation yields finding of Neglect, No Injury. (Deborah Robinson, 9.8.23)

Victim sustained multiple injuries necessitating prolonged hospital stays, and remains injured to his day.

THE VICTIM IS FEATURED IN THE 2021 OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVERNOR MURPHY

Abuse and Neglect

There is no question that abuse and neglect occur in some of our congregate settings. I cannot tell you how prevalent it is or why it occurs, but families share their horrifying pictures and stories with us on a regular basis. Sometimes it is in the form of physical injuries. Sometimes it is in the form of locked bedroom doors, withheld food, incorrect medication administration, unsanitary conditions, or some other inhumane treatment. Sometimes it is verbal and psychological, expressing itself in demeaning and degrading behavior toward an individual.

There is also no question that the Murphy Administration takes this very seriously and has taken important steps to address it – to prevent abuse and neglect and to respond to situations brought to our attention. Most notably, beginning in 2018, the New Jersey Department of Human Services has been implementing the Stephen Kominos' Law, the landmark law that established new policies and procedures for protecting those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Specifically, the Department has put in place several important measures for helping to prevent abuse and neglect in residential and day programs – measures such as unannounced site visits, drug testing of direct care staff and strict notification requirements to parents/guardians when incidents occur.

"I have the impression that this patient has been physically and mentally declining deconditioning [sic] probably related with poor care in her group home."

Hospital psychiatric evaluation of an 18-year-old group home resident
December 2021

Skin Assessment:
Abnormal Findings (Please use diagram code on appropriate area)

DIAGRAM CODE:	
B =	Burn
C =	Contusion
D =	Decubitus/Ulcer
E =	Erythema
I =	Incision
J =	Body Piercing
L =	Laceration
P =	Petechia
R =	Rash
S =	Scar
T =	Tattoo

Patient shows physical or behavioral signs of abuse: ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Referral to:

☐ Adult Protective Services ☐ Division of Youth and Family Services ☐ Other

List name of agency contact: _____

Signature: _____ Date: 12-11-21 Time: 2:15 AM/PM

Hospital body chart of the victim, 12.11.21

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

Disability Rights New Jersey received your report of alleged abuse or neglect regarding victim. If we proceed with an investigation, we will conduct our investigation pursuant to our federal authority to independently investigate allegations of abuse or neglect against people with disabilities in New Jersey, not on behalf of you or the alleged victim. (Jill Hoegel, 11.21.22)

We received your initial allegations in May of 2022. At that time, it was reported to us that primary investigations into these allegations were underway by the Department of Children and Families Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit, the Department of Human Services Office of Program Integrity and Accountability, and the Lakewood police department. (Jill Hoegel, 6.28.23)

DRNJ will not provide any updates or confirm whether their investigation is ongoing.

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DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

DCF's investigation is pending OCPO's investigation, which is exclusively based on DHS's investigation.

DCF is reviewing the reports from DHS and is considering appropriate actions based on the findings. (Mollie Greene, 9.13.23)

DCF investigator waits two years for the completion of the OCPO investigation.

OCPO investigation is exclusively based on the DHS investigation.

DHS reports that it cannot employ police tactics in interviews and is limited to asking questions and accepting answers at face value, even if it is later determined that SCC management and staff lied.

DCF is yet to produce any updates or results of their two year long investigation.

OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTORS AND POLICE

OCPO are unable to interview SCC staff as a result of the SCC having retained counsel instructing staff not to answer any questions.

OCPO relies exclusively on the interviews gathered by DHS.

OCPO could offer immunity to witnesses so that they could corroborate the events and testify - OCPO decides against it.

OCPO can get an order to compel and an order of contempt - OCPO decides against it.

OCPO does not press charges because SCC staff does not corroborate allegations of abuse against themselves and management in interviews with DHS.

OCPO disregards medical and police reports recounting instances of abuse and neglect, inclusive of evidence and testimonies from whistleblowers.

It is determined that SCC managers and staff were untruthful in DHS interviews - SCC staff lied to cover up the abuse.

OCPO does not charge anyone, informs the mother of the victim that *their hearts are breaking for the victim, but there is nothing they could do*, the hope is that at some point witnesses will come forward voluntarily, which will never happen in the insular orthodox community where the abuse took place.