

October 22, 2008

James Breslin

**Re: Homeless Patients in behavioral health programs at
United Health Services Hospitals, Inc.**

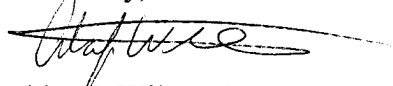
Dear Mr. Breslin;

This letter certifies the position and practice of United Health Services Hospitals Inc. United Health Services Hospitals, Inc. operates three inpatient psychiatric units, two inpatient substance abuse treatment programs in addition to our medical beds. The organization operates two hospitals, Binghamton General Hospital and Wilson Memorial Hospital.

The inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse units have a firm policy of not discharging patients to the street. Each patient must be discharged to an acceptable safe address. Our inpatient substance abuse programs discharge over 600 persons per year. At time of admission 40% of these individuals are homeless. This means we are required to find safe and sober housing for 240 persons each year. Inpatient psychiatry discharges are over 1,200 per year. Among this population, the homeless rate is approximately 10% meaning another 120 patients who need safe housing prior to discharge. The total homeless placements each year are over 360 persons per year. This creates a significant amount of work for staff and places a strain on hospital systems as we attempt to move patients to the most appropriate level of care in the community in a timely fashion.

We appreciate your work in trying to assist our community with safe and sober housing. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Wilmarth
Administrative Director, Behavioral Health
United Health Services Hospitals
10-42 Mitchell Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903