

Farrell, Jennifer (OASAS)

From: Avi Israel <A.Israel@savethemichaels.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 6:59 PM
To: Farrell, Jennifer (OASAS); McCarthy, Keith (OASAS)
Cc: Jessica Petty
Subject: Opportunity to Testify

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Dear Mrs. Farrell and Mr. McCarthy,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Avi Israel, I am the President and Founder of Save the Michaels of the World Inc. We are a grassroots organization that provides help and support to people suffering from addiction and mental health. We have become very well-known across New York State and the Niagara Frontier.

Just so you are aware, from January 1st, 2022 to June 9th 2022 we have received close to 9,000 calls for assistance. We have placed close to 600 people into treatment, many of which go into OASAS addiction treatment facilities. The availability for beds in Western New York has become extremely limited, there is a shortage of in-patient treatment beds in this area. I would like to be present on Thursday the 16th and testify on behalf of Niagara Recovery Center. We are in desperate need of beds in Western New York, in ANY county that has room to help. To date we have made over 420 trips over 55,000 miles to find and get people into treatment beds around New York state. These trips have transported over 650 people. Please allow me this time to provide our documented numbers of what is actually occurring in Western New York. People are dying daily in astronomical numbers, while we have private facilities who are picking and choosing who they admit.

Thank you for the opportunity and time you have taken to read this and I greatly appreciate it.

Avi Israel, President
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