

Ms. Richter,
via Mr. Julio Cedeno, CAP Advocate

I am writing to formally object to the conduct, conditions, and framing of the meeting held Friday January 9th 2025. This correspondence is intended to create a complete and accurate record of what occurred, the context in which it occurred, and the harm that resulted.

I attended this meeting under duress.

For nearly a month prior to the meeting, I was placed in circumstances that made it clear that asserting my rights, requesting written communication, or engaging outside advocacy could result in retaliation or loss of services. That pressure materially affected my ability to participate freely and safely. It also directly informed the distress that unfolded during and after the meeting.

The meeting was presented to me as an opportunity to discuss resolution and my vocational and career goals. I attended in good faith on that basis. Only after the fact was it asserted that the meeting was solely to review testing results and I was never going to have the opportunity to speak or ask questions. That limitation was neither clearly communicated in advance nor consistent with how the meeting was conducted. This misrepresentation rendered the meeting futile and destabilizing.

The physical environment selected for the meeting was inappropriate and foreseeably harmful.

Six individuals were placed into what I can only assume was the smallest available room. Maybe 9x12 feet? Cubicles with walls like little claustrophobic boxes lined both sides of the room and a desk by the door giving the feeling of partially obscuring the exit. I was forcefully positioned in a corner because there was no other option, farthest from the exit, with multiple people seated between myself and the door. Given my documented CPTSD and trauma history, much of which is directly connected to my career and vocation as well as clinical and evaluative environments, this configuration was not neutral. It was completely psychologically unsafe and seems blatantly manipulative.

I raised concerns in real time. They were ignored. I was told that there are no conference rooms at the facility.

During the meeting, I attempted to ask direct questions related to my vocational direction, my professional work, and the consequences of the program that ultimately led me into that room. Those questions were deflected, talked over and dismissed. I was told that I did not understand the purpose of the meeting, despite the fact that my questions went to the core of my career, rehabilitation outcomes, and the real world impact of your agency's actions.

As you are aware, I am the founder and active representative of Marijuana Advocacy Group Inc., where I advocate for people with disabilities navigating systems that routinely fail to accommodate them. This work is not incidental or speculative. It is my vocation. Any attempt to

separate me or my career goals from that reality is a mischaracterization of my professional identity.

Immediately before and after the meeting, I documented my distress and the events that transpired in real time to a couple of third parties, prior to any legal consultation or strategic review. Those contemporaneous communications reflect confusion, fear, and emotional harm directly resulting from the meeting conditions and conduct. They corroborate the account I am placing on the record here.

The escalation that followed, including my removal from the meeting under excessive security presence, did not occur in isolation. It occurred after prolonged pressure, refusal to answer questions, an unsafe physical environment, and repeated dismissal of legitimate vocational inquiries. It was apparently also stated after I left, that there was a clear plan to have security outside that door even before the meeting began.

Taken together, these facts demonstrate a pattern of conduct that is coercive, dismissive, and inconsistent with trauma informed practice, rehabilitation standards, and meaningful vocational engagement.

This letter serves as formal notice that the meeting, its conditions, and its aftermath were unacceptable and unnecessarily harmful to me. It also documents that my participation was constrained by a well founded fear of retaliation and loss of services. Which apparently was absolutely correct because after I left the meeting you presented my mother with form VR-711 to request an impartial hearing and a copy of the correspondence between you and your boss Linda Schramm (assistant commissioner, access NYSED).

I remain open to resolution. However, any future engagement must be clearly scoped in advance, conducted in a trauma informed manner, and respectful of both my disabilities and my professional role. Anything less will be treated as a continuation of the same documented pattern.

Please confirm in writing to my CAP representative that this correspondence has been received.

Sincerely,
Robert "Rip X" Grigonis
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