

Jamie Reed

January 26, 2023

(Via electronic mail – c/o josh.devine@ago.mo.gov)

Honorable Andrew Bailey
Attorney General - State of Missouri
Supreme Court Building
207 W. High Street
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

RE: Complaint

Dear Attorney General Bailey:

My name is Jamie Reed. I was employed at the Pediatric Transgender Center at Washington University School of Medicine at St Louis Children's Hospital (hereinafter the "Center") for 4 years, and 4 months, from July of 2018 until November of 2022. During that time I held the case manager position at the Center. Please accept this correspondence as a formal complaint concerning questionable medical practices and treatment of minors by the Center.

I have decided to come forward to report serious concerns I have about the medical care being provided by the Center causing harm to patients and their families. This includes the rapid medicalization of children; poor assessments of mental health concerns prior to provision of gender altering treatment; medicalization of children without prior and adequate therapeutic treatment; lack of appropriate, informed written consent of parents and youth; and actual, permanent and irreversible harm and injury caused by the medical treatment provided at the Center.

The lack of informed consent includes known and unknown possible adverse reactions to treatment not being disclosed to parents. The concerns also include the intentional abuse and intimidation of parents who do not fully support medicalization and/or gender altering treatment of their children. It includes the intentional decision not to request knowledge or copies of custody agreements/orders before visits, and to see minor patients in the Center without the knowledge of all legal guardians that the visit was occurring. The Center accepted parental consents even when a parent explicitly stated that they felt pressured to consent, and stated that they were not completely comfortably but felt that they had no choice but to say yes. This abuse goes so far as to include appearances and testimony of Center physicians and directors against such parents during court proceedings. The Center also advised public school districts to withhold from parents information concerning their child's gender identity and medical interventions in furtherance of gender transition being undertaken at school.

During my time at the Center cases of questionable treatment and failure to adhere to the appropriate and applicable standard of care far outweighed the cases where clear positive outcomes were seen. I observed patients with significant mental health and trauma histories being medically transitioned without continuing mental health support. I witnessed treatment being continued even after negative medical and mental health outcomes were observed. I also witnessed increasing numbers of youth who decided, after receiving treatment, to de-transition, as well as, desisting patients with resulting residual and permanent physical and mental health injury from gender altering treatment provided by the Center.

In addition to inappropriate medical treatment, Directors and primary care providers at the Center, Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED], during testimony before the Missouri Legislature, intentionally misrepresented what was occurring at the Center. These individuals did not speak honestly about the nature and extent of the care and treatment provided by the Center. These same individuals also misrepresented the type, nature and extent of the care the Center was providing to the hospital administration and other medical providers. They repeatedly, and consistently, misrepresented what was occurring with respect to surgical care (i.e., referrals/providing children surgical contacts/knowledge that children were having surgery).

Center leadership created and facilitated a culture that emphasized, prioritized, and placed the power and authority of treatment decision making into the hands of the prescribing and treating physicians exclusively. Administrative leadership: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were and remain dismissive, and at times hostile, to support staff who raise legitimate ethical and medical treatment concerns and issues. The hospital administration supported the prescribing and treating physicians without having a full and complete understanding about treatment and what was actually occurring with the patients.

The Center leadership did not make it a priority and failed to monitor and track the care being provided to Clinic patients. The Center had no functional means of following or tracking patients who were started on gender altering treatments, no ability to adequately follow the outcomes from the interventions, and failed and/or refused to support any meaningful efforts support staff undertook and utilized to complete the necessary and appropriate patient follow up.

The Center Clinic directors and administrators created a culture of, “get on board or get out” and regularly intimidate Center staff in an attempt to silence ethical and medical concerns being raised by staff. This was overtly evidenced in 2022 in phone calls with staff and at a retreat where Clinic Directors Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED] confronted two staff members who had been raising concerns stating, “it was not acceptable to even use the word ‘concerns’ any longer to the doctors regarding the care” or use the phrase, “red flags”. [REDACTED] advised all personnel in attendance at the retreat that we needed to, “either get on board or get out.” The administration and Center leadership repeatedly and consistently refused to acknowledge that the nature of gender altering care and treatment is rapidly changing, that the presenting patients have changed, that the applicable standard of care is under review and revision, and that the science is not ‘settled’.

Center Clinic co-directors, Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED], devoted only a small percentage of their time to actually running the Clinic and managing an exploding and challenging patient population. Center administration did not provide any direct oversight of clinical practices. There was no evidence that Center division directors: Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED] were aware of the changes to guidelines and standard of care and did not provide clear direct oversight to policies, practices and procedures in the Center.

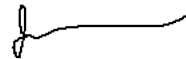
The culture at the Center Clinic became so toxic that support staff, with serious and legitimate concerns, nonetheless felt compelled to remain working at the Center (to their own detriment) because if they left no one would provide essential follow-up, or checks and balances necessary to countermand the unethical decisions, medical harm and permanent injury resulting from Center treatment. Medical harm and injury I witnessed include vaginal lacerations that required surgical repair due to the testosterone's damage to the vaginal tissues, liver injury due to medications being prescribed that are not within any standards of care (bicalutamide), mental health worsening after initiation of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones (including suicide attempts and increased hospitalizations), and harm to families.

The essential elements of proper and medically appropriate care and treatment require actual, objective assessment, genuine informed consent, therapy, and, when appropriate, mental health care in advance of physical treatment. These basic tenants are at the core of recognized, appropriate, and acceptable medical treatment. I can no longer support medical transition/gender altering treatment of children provided by the Center because these essential tenants, which are necessary to first do no harm, are not being followed.

Finally, attached is a copy of Pediatric Transgender Center, the document I prepared outlining Center treatment practices, actions and failures to act.

It is my hope that you're office will open an investigation into the questionable and harmful practices of the Center.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Reed

cc: Hon. Joshua Devine, Solicitor General (josh.divine.ago.mo.gov)

[REDACTED]

Enclosure