

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION**

MARY TROUPE, et al.

PLAINTIFFS

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:10-cv-153-HTW-MTP

HALEY BARBOUR, et al.

DEFENDANTS

AFFIDAVIT OF JOY HOGGE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

After being duly sworn, affiant states as follows:

1. My name is Joy Hogge. I presently serve as the Executive Director of Families as Allies, a statewide organization for parents and caregivers of children with mental health challenges in Mississippi.

2. At the request of the State of Mississippi (“the State”), Families as Allies worked with the State and the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ”) throughout the DOJ’s investigation of the State’s services for and support of persons with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities. Specifically, Families as Allies assembled families from all over the State to participate in Technical Assistance Collaborative’s (“TAC”) assessment of the State’s services.

3. The State, DOJ, and TAC told me and the families that participated in TAC’s assessment that TAC’s report would be made available to the public. In fact, Suzanne Fields of TAC spoke with me about the format of the forthcoming report so that I would be able to discuss it with the families who participated in the assessment and help them understand TAC’s findings.

4. I made my understanding that TAC’s report would be made public known to the State prior to TAC delivering its report to the State, and I was never corrected or told that the

State did not intend to make the report public until after the State received the report in early March 2015. Only at that time was I informed that the State was withholding the report from publication. The DOJ and TAC also refused to produce the report.

5. Withholding the report is inconsistent with the State's publication of TAC's first report on the Department of Mental Health's website, as well as TAC's publication of its other reports on its website. In fact, prior to agreeing that Families as Allies would assist in TAC's assessment, I was directed to TAC's website to review their reports to better understand TAC's assessment process. Based on this, I understood that the report based on the assessment that Families as Allies participated in would be made public.

6. If I had not been misled into believing that the TAC report would be made available to the public, Families as Allies would not have participated in the assessment which is the basis for the report. Nor would I have assembled families to participate in the assessment.

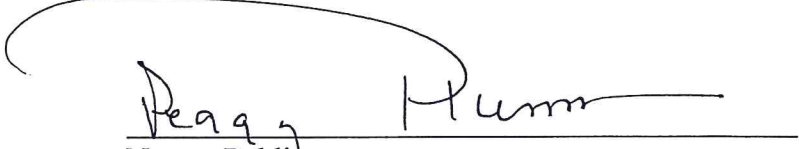
7. Also, I understood that the TAC report was paid for with State taxpayer dollars. I made this understanding known to the State when it refused to provide me with access to the report. My understanding was never corrected.

8. Mental health issues and the State's services for and support of persons with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities are important public policy issues. There is no possibility for success of these services unless the public, and specifically the families affected and organizations such as Families as Allies, have input in any assessment of those services, any recommendations for reform of those services and the implementation of those recommendations. Failing to release this report is a major step backward and represents the kind of lack of transparency which builds distrust and distances those that need help from those responsible for giving them help.

9. At this time, I have nothing further to say.


Joy Hogge

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 24 day of June, 2015.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

