



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
P.O. Box 12414
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900
(800) 342-4306
Fax (518) 785-1814

Daily Gazette

October 6, 2008

OFFICERS:

Kenneth Brynien
President

Arlea Gabe Igoe
Secretary-Treasurer

Patricia Baker
Tom Comanzo
Joe Fox
Vice Presidents

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

Kevin Hintz
Region 1

Bonnie Wood
Region 2

John Prince
Region 3

Donald Kehoskie
Region 4

Mary Twitchell
Region 5

Kevin Conley
Region 6

Tom Donahue
Region 7

William Wurster
Region 8

Neila Cardus
Region 9

Vernetta Chesimard
Region 10

Jemma Marie-Hanson
Region 11

Doris Dodson
Region 12

TRUSTEES:

Gail Noble
Adam Sumlin
Olubiyi Sehindemi

To the editor:

By characterizing the dangerous and dysfunctional situation at Tryon Residential Center as the fault of thuggish employees intransigent to change, Edward Borges ("Some Tryon Staff get Orders of Protection", October 4) once again offers an offensive and overly simplistic response.

We have repeatedly approached OCFS Commissioner Carrión to discuss how best to provide therapeutic care for difficult youth in a safe, structured environment. Our goal is to enable youth to gain skills that allow a successful re-entry into their communities. This is not possible when the facility is in chaos.

The failure to allow staff to consistently apply agency policy and procedures for inappropriate behavior has created an environment where there are no consequences for youth who break agency rules. The lack of structure in Tryon has put both youth and staff at risk.

We have been cooperative and cautiously optimistic about recent changes at Tryon, which have included long overdue administrative overhauls as well as staff training. It is unfortunate that Commissioner Carrión's spokesman resorts to slurs and finger pointing instead of accepting responsibility for a facility that has been out of control. If Commissioner Carrión wants real reform she needs to stop blaming her employees and instead give them the tools they need to implement her and our shared vision.

Kenneth Brynien
President
Public Employees Federation