

# Half a Million Americans Want Two Behavioral Hospital Chains Closed Over Teen Abuse

*CCHR launches information page for parents on its FightForKids website in support of online petitions calling for the closure of two behavioral hospital chains*

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, November 24, 2020

/EINPresswire.com/ -- To better inform parents about the dangers of “troubled teen” treatment centers, Citizens Commission on Human Rights International launched a new page on its FightforKids website called [“Psychiatric/Behavioral Facilities: Child Abuse Under the Guise of ‘Help.’”](#) The mental health industry watchdog group’s site says, parents are often misled about a child’s troubled behavior and can be coerced into

believing that placing a child in a psychiatric or behavioral facility is the right and safest thing to do. But over half a million Americans have recently signed two petitions calling for the closure of two chains of behavioral facilities in the wake of allegations of teen abuse and restraint deaths.

One petition was started by a group, #BreakingSilenceCode, which is supported by Paris Hilton, whose documentary, “This is Paris,” released earlier this year has done much to raise awareness about teens being abused in for-profit behavioral “schools” and facilities. In 1999, at aged 16, Hilton was placed in a Utah behavioral school where she was put in solitary confinement, abused and drugged. The abuse has adversely impacted her since. The facility still exists, owned now by a major psychiatric hospital chain that recently paid out \$132 million in settlement to the Federal and state governments over fraudulent billing and patient abuse allegations.[1]

CCHR says that as a public awareness and educational tool alone, Hilton’s documentary has reached more than 18.4 million people.[2]



CCHR, a mental health industry watchdog, launches information page for parents on its FightForKids website in support of online petitions calling for the closure of two behavioral hospital chains accused of abusing troubled children and teens

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) also has a petition against another for-profit behavioral facility chain, calling for it to be shut down following the restraint death of a 16-year-old African American boy, Cornelius Frederick, in Michigan in April this year. The petition has over 330,300 signatures.[3] Mother Jones reported at the time of the boy's violent and tragic death, "It Was a Torture Chamber": The Facility That Killed a Black 16-Year-Old Had a Long History of Abuse." [4] In 2016, the state of Michigan documented 321 restraints at the facility. The next year there were 495. The next, 595. And in 2019: 796 restraints – an average of more than two per day, and more than twice as many as just four years before.[5]

The facility is now closed along with a sister facility in the state that housed more than 60 children.[6] In 2019, the company that owned the facility received nearly \$9 million from the state of Michigan to operate its two facilities there.[7]

The NJJN petition points out: "In the United States, profiting off of youth incarceration has become widespread, with almost half of the youth facilities in the country privately operated. Kids are often shipped across state lines to receive 'therapeutic services,' yet in reality suffer bullying, restraint, and abuse." Further, "We know from nationwide data that youth of color are more likely to be removed from their homes and placed in these types of facilities despite similar rates of offending. We must stop warehousing youth and subjecting youth of color to these harmful conditions." [8]

In July, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an "emergency rule" to ban child care facilities from using the type of restraint that led to the death of Cornelius. "We are moving toward the goal of ending the use of restraints in institutional settings," said MDHHS director Robert Gordon.[9]

FightforKids and CCHR International's resource website both detail over 70 incidents of child and teen abuses in one psychiatric hospital chain, including at least 32 allegations of sexual abuse, including several convictions of staff responsible; about 18 incidents involving seclusion rooms or restraints use in children as young as 6, including 3 deaths; wrongful deaths, assault; breaking a patient's arm and fracturing the nose of another; and, at least 6 suicides that could have been prevented.[10]

Many parents have now come forward to report more abuses to CCHR International, through its [report an abuse](#) online service. Independently, since 2015, CCHR Int has filed tens of thousands of complaints and letters to state and federal legislators about a culture of violence and abuse of patients in privately-run psychiatric facilities, needing accountable oversight, including both criminally and fiscally. They want to see stronger protections for children.

CCHR adds that psychiatrists and other mental health professionals affiliated with for-profit child psychiatric hospitals and residential behavioral facilities and who are responsible for their admission, can give advice that comes with a "false assurance of 'help,' but neglects to mention the potential harm the child or teen can be subjected to. Whether through punitive actions such

as solitary confinement and seclusion rooms, or torturous treatments, including debilitating drugs, behavior modification or electroshock, and chemical and physical restraints, parents should know the risks to their child. Too many have found out too late.”

Parents can confidentially report an abuse of a child in a psychiatric or behavioral facility [to CCHR here](#).

CCHR is a mental health watchdog responsible for more than 180 laws that protect patients from damaging psychiatric practices. DONATE to support its work here:

<https://www.cchrint.org/cchrint-donate/>

[1] “Universal Health Services, Inc. to Pay \$117 Million to Settle False Claims Act Allegations,” Dept. of Justice Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 10 July 2020, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/universal-health-services-inc-pay-117-million-settle-false-claims-act-allegations>; “Universal Health Services officially finalizes \$122M settlement with DOJ,” Fierce Healthcare, 13 Jul, 2020, <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/universal-health-services-officially-finalizes-122m-settlement-doj>; “Universal Health Services to Pay Massachusetts More than \$15 Million to Resolve Whistleblower False Claims Cases,” Mass.gov, 13 July 2020, <https://www.mass.gov/news/universal-health-services-to-pay-massachusetts-more-than-15-million-to-resolve-whistleblower>

[2] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOg0TY1jG3w>

[3] <https://www.change.org/p/gretchen-whitmer-justice-for-cornelius-shut-sequel-down>

[4] <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/07/cornelius-fredericks-i-cant-breathe-sequel-lakeside-michigan/>

[5] Dustin Dwyer, “It’s still not right.’ An investigation into Lakeside Academy,” Michigan NPR, 24 Sept. 2020, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/its-still-not-right-investigation-lakeside-academy>

[6] <http://lakesideacademy.net/> (Lakeside Academy); <http://www.starralbionprep.com/> (Starr Albion Prep)

[7] Op. cit., Michigan NPR

[8] <https://www.change.org/p/gretchen-whitmer-justice-for-cornelius-shut-sequel-down>

[9] Dustin Dwyer, “State says it will ban restraints that led to death of 16-year-old,” Michigan NPR, 16 Jul. 2020, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/state-says-it-will-ban-restraints-led-death-16-year-old>

[10] <https://www.cchrint.org/2020/10/30/child-abuse-allegations-in-the-behavioral-psychiatric-industry-universal-health-services-uhs/>

Amber Rauscher

Citizens Commission on Human Rights

+1 323-467-4242

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/531349268>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.