

TO YOUNG CLIENTS WHO SAW LONG LINES OF PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM YOUNG, FEW OF THEM OBESE, WAITING TO OBTAIN DRUGS FOR WEIGHT CONTROL. THE SITUATION WAS AGGRAVATED BY THE FACT THAT MANY OF THESE CLIENTS WERE COURT REMANDED FOR TREATMENT AFTER ARREST AND CONVICTION FOR THEIR ILLICIT DRUG ABUSE, AND HAD REAL FEELINGS ABOUT THE DAILY PARADE OF "LEGITIMIZED" DRUG TRAFFIC WHICH THEY WERE WITNESS TO.

THE FOLLOWING STEPS WERE TAKEN ON THE LOCAL LEVEL: THE SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WAS ALERTED TO THE SITUATION; THE SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY WAS INFORMED (BUT THE DOCTOR WAS NOT A MEMBER, AND THEY COULD IMPOSE NO EFFECTIVE SANCTION); THE TOWN'S COUNSELLING CENTER WAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION; AND, SOON AFTER, THE COUNTY'S METHADONE CLINIC MOVED AWAY ALSO. AS OF THIS WRITING, THIS SAME DOCTOR REMAINS UNDER INVESTIGATION OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND IN ACTIVE PRACTICE IN THE SAME LOCATION WITH AN ESTIMATED WEEKLY CASELOAD OF OVER 800 PATIENTS.

IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, ONE OF THOSE PATIENTS, A TWENTY YEAR OLD FEMALE, CAME TO OUR COUNSELLING CENTER WITH THE HOPE OF BREAKING A ONE YEAR ADDICTION TO AMPHETAMINES. THE PILLS WERE GIVEN TO THIS CLIENT ON A REGULAR AND UNREGULATED BASIS. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS GIVEN THE PILLS DIRECTLY BY THE DOCTOR, AND THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO GET MORE THAN THE USUAL WEEKLY ALLOTMENT OF TWENTY-ONE PILLS WITH EASE. SHE FURTHER STATED THAT, AFTER THE FIRST VISIT, NO SIGNIFICANT EXAMINATION WAS MADE OF HER PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITION.

DURING THAT YEAR, BEFORE SHE CAME TO US, SHE WAS OFTEN DEEPLY DEPRESSED, HAD VISUAL HALLUCINATIONS, WAS DELUSIONAL IN HER THINKING, AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS. SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED EACH TIME.