

**vermont
psychiatric
survivors**

Review of Act 82 Reports Sections 3 - 5 and Mental Health Data Points

Wilda L. White
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Friday, January 19, 2018

Act 82 – Sec. 5

- Prolonged waits and involuntary treatment laws – no link
- Adequacy of Housing
- Orders of Non-Hospitalization and Prolonged waits
- Interplay of Staff and Patient Rights

Patient Rights

The “liberty interest at stake in involuntary commitment proceeding is as valuable an interest as liberty interest at stake in criminal proceeding.” *G.T. v. Stone*, 159 Vt. 607, 611 (1992). And where involuntary treatment is accompanied by compelled medication, the concerns about liberty are heightened because “[a]mong the historic liberties protected by the Due Process Clause is the right to be free from, and to obtain judicial relief for, unjustified intrusions on personal security.” *Vivek v Jones*, 445 U.S. 480, 492 (1980).

Staff Rights

- No right to be free from “compassionate fatigue”
- No right to render the “accepted standard of care” to unwilling patients
- No right to have patients, in their opinion, not suffer needlessly

DMH Public Hearing

vermont
psychiatric
survivors



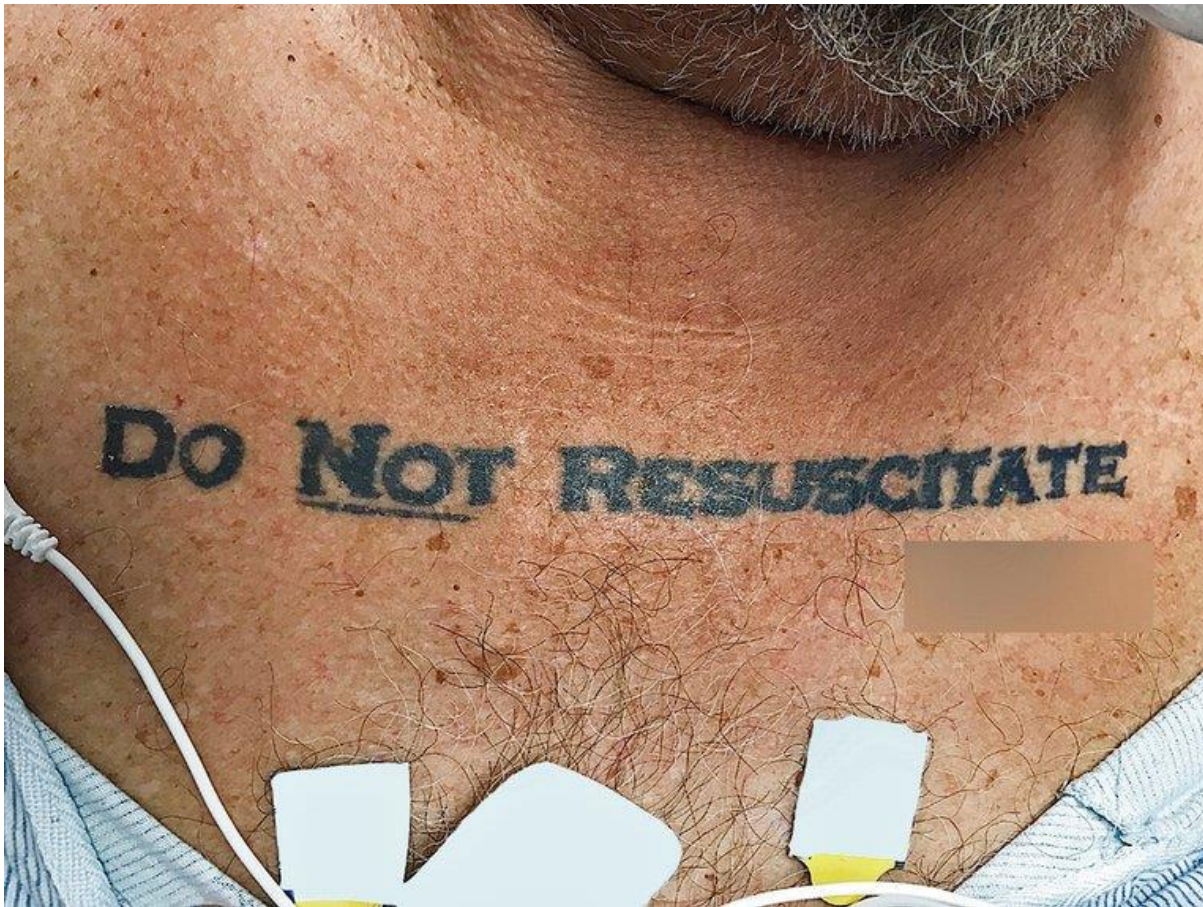
Humiliation of Forced Drugging

vermont
psychiatric
survivors



VPCH and VAHHS

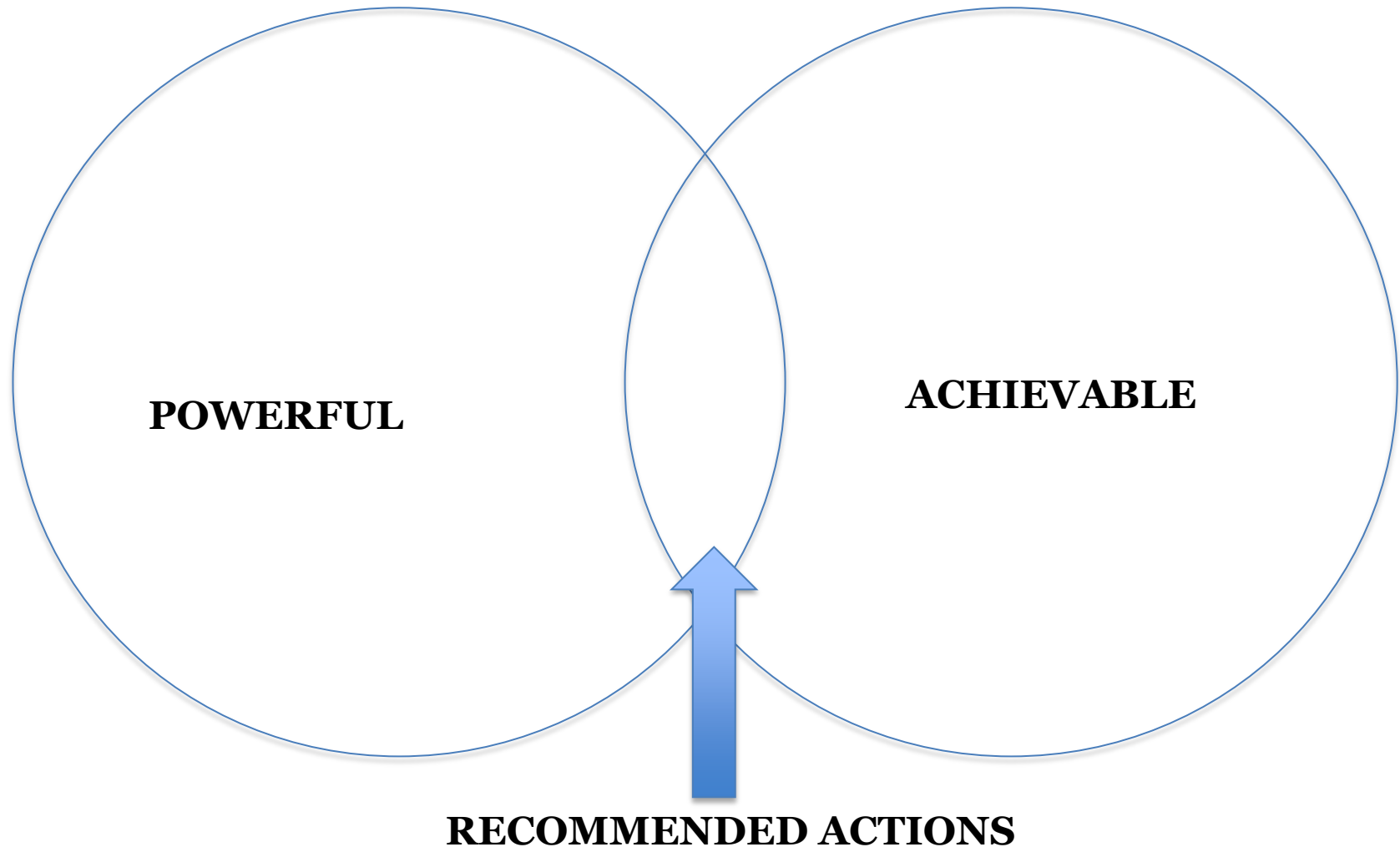
vermont
psychiatric
survivors



The black, bold capital letters were in plain sight on his collarbone. The word “not” was underlined. And the man’s own signature was reproduced beneath the demand.

Solutions Must Be Powerful And Achievable

vermont
psychiatric
survivors



VPS Analysis-Based Plan

- Invest in Data Collection and Analysis
- Invest in Housing not more hospital beds
- Invest in Peer-Run Community Center in roughly each county with attached two-bed peer respite
- Invest in best practices at DAs - Therapists
- Public Health Campaign – Alternatives to EDs
- Stop telling individuals to return to ED
- Require training for ED personnel
- Require documentation of admission refusals
- Develop and enforce accountability measures

Contact Information

Wilda L. White

Executive Director

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Inc.

128 Merchants Row, Suite 606

Rutland, VT 05701-5912

T: (802) 775-6834

F: (802) 775-6823

C: (802) 779-8301

wilda@vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org