

September 22, 2021

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

Dear Director Lori Criss,

First we want to thank the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for your leadership in striving to ensure all youth are placed in safe and supportive environments, as well as your commitment to investing in community services for youth through the OhioRISE program.

Many of the undersigned organizations contacted you back in December as it related to your diligent investigation into Sequel Pomegranate's use of restraint and other safety concerns. We were pleased to learn that Sequel Youth and Family Services voluntarily relinquished their residential treatment facility license. Furthermore, most recently we are pleased to learn that Torii Behavioral Health, formerly Sequel Pomegranate, is voluntarily relinquishing its OhioMHAS license and certifications for the acute psychiatric facility effective October 8, 2021.

With the upcoming October 10, 2021 opportunity nearing for Sequel to reapply for their residential treatment facility license, we remain committed to raising public awareness about the harmful impact Sequel has had on Ohio's youth and families, including survivors who stand behind this letter. Due to the well-documented abuse and neglect, including but not limited to restraint and seclusion, experienced by children and teenagers at Sequel Pomegranate, we believe Sequel should not be licensed to do business in Ohio or any other state.

**Pomegranate survivors, along with representatives from our organizations, request a meeting with your office** to discuss ways to prevent placement of youth in for-profit youth residential treatment facilities (in and out of state) and OhioMHAS's ability to ensure that youth receive care in safe environments free from abuse and neglect.

Thank you for considering our meeting request and we hope to be in touch soon.

**SEQUEL POMEGRANATE SURVIVORS**

Addison Torrence  
Amelia Castel  
Andrew Elswick  
DeAnna Black (Bowman)  
Elise Torrence  
Lavoya Martin  
Rachel Hetrick

## **STATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now (ACTION Ohio)  
Black Lives Matter Cleveland Inc.  
Children's Law Center, Inc.  
Disability Rights Ohio  
Faith In Public Life  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Juvenile Justice Coalition  
National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter  
Ohio Student Association  
Opportunities Peoples Justice Leaders  
Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB)  
P.O.W Protect Our Women  
River Valley Organizing  
Stay Focused Movement  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Ohio  
The Freedom BLOC  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

## **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Breaking Code Silence  
Center for Children's Law and Policy  
Children's Rights  
National Juvenile Defender Center  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
The Sentencing Project  
We Warned Them Campaign  
Youth First Initiative