

Rebecca Butler – Buffalo

August 2022, I received a letter from my (WC sanctioned) Psychiatrist he wasn't able to work issues out with the WC board and he was no longer a participating Physician, and I would need to find a new one off the list provided by NYS WC. He also provided us with a current list of participating Psychiatrists. After calling them all, I was told they couldn't help; I had to ask my own physician to order (temporarily) the medications I was on as it would cause a dire situation for me if abruptly discontinued. She was willing to do that but on a temporary basis. It has been 5 months!

I began calling all these on the list and NO One on that list was still taking clients. I tried phoning my worker at WC and she quickly directed me to Workers Compensation Medical Board. That proved to be an exercise in futility as you do not get a human being on any of the prompts. The When I finally did get a human at Workers Compensation Medical Board through the Advocate (after 5 months of calls, emails, letters) she was nice but not helpful. She mailed me no less than thirty pages of Psychiatrists, in York State. ONE in Erie County. That Psychiatrist IS NOT TAKING NEW PATIENTS. Her suggestion was to call all of the names on the list (closest 50 miles away) and see if they would be willing to take me on.

In summary I have been denied access to Health Care. I have had to pay for my own prescriptions since June 2022 and find someone to prescribe these essential medications despite my efforts to contact the Workers Compensation Board too many times to rectify this situation.