

5/22/2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this note on behalf of Drew Lamm. My name is Aaron Krasner and I have been the director of the Adolescent Transitional Living Program at Silver Hill Hospital for four years. During that time, I oversaw a complete overhaul of the program. Among many of the progressive changes we championed, the crowning jewel was the engagement of Ms. Lamm for a creative writing seminar for emotionally disabled teens. On average, our population is characterized by mood, anxiety, eating, substance use, cognitive, and behavioral disorders with a history of multiple psychiatric hospitalizations, suicide attempts, and non suicidal self injury. This is not an easy group to engage in anyway. When I report that the children felt most proud of their work with Ms Lamm, I am not using hyperbole. Without judgment, without negativity, and with love, care, and consistent dedication Ms. Lamm drew from this dispirited lot a sense of curiosity about writing and its relevance to psychiatric recovery.

Ms. Lamm ran a weekly writing group during which she provided prompts to individually inspire students to write about their worlds. Many pieces were published. All were utilized clinically. And Ms. Lamm was a gentle, intrepid leader in for the project. Indefatigable, Ms. Lamm consistently helped these kids find meaning where little is to be found. I have worked with a broad swath of clinicians and teachers during my tenure as a teacher (Teach for America 1997) and doctor. Few, if any, have demonstrated the patience, vision, and talent for working artistically with such a tricky patient population. I couldn't more heartily endorse her for continuing this work at Silver Hill and beyond.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Krasner MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Aaron Krasner MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine.