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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this to address a number of misstatements of fact about the DTREE computer program, made by Dr. Liza Gold in her deposition testimony in the matter of Ann K. Neuhaus, M.D, Kansas License No. 04-21596 before the Board of the Healing Arts of the State of Kansas (Docket No. 10-HA00129). These statements include the contention that DTREE is a “computer-generated diagnostic algorithm,” that it is “no validity or reliability,” that “there is no science behind it,” that “it is not used by psychiatrists,” and its use represents a “deviation from the standard of care of psychiatrists.”

The computer program DTREE was first published by Multi-Health Systems of Canada in 1988 shortly after the publication of DSM-III-R, and was co-authored by myself, Janet B.W. Williams and Robert Spitzer, who were the authors and developers of DSM-III-R. As noted in the DTREE manual, “DTREE is an expanded and annotated computerized implementation of the DSM-III-R Decision Trees for Differential Diagnosis (Appendix B of DSM-III-R).” (DTREE for DSM-III-R manual, p. 1). It was completely revised and updated for DSM-IV, in a version published in 1997 and revised in 2001. As explicitly noted in the manual for the DSM-IV version (the version used in the context of this investigation), “DTREE: The DSM-IV Expert is designed to assist clinicians in diagnosing DSM-IV adult Axis I disorders.” (DTREE for DSM-IV manual, p. 1). Thus, in contrast to the statements made by Dr. Gold, DTREE is not a computer generated diagnostic algorithm” but simply a faithful computer implementation of the diagnostic decision trees which are included as part of the actual DSM manual, developed by the actual editors of the DSM-III-R and DSM-IV. Consequently, the science behind DTREE is in fact the same science that is behind the DSM itself, which Dr. Gold readily acknowledges forms the standard of care for psychiatric diagnosis. Moreover, contrary to the contention that it has no reliability and validity, a study published in 1993 in the journal *Comprehensive Psychiatry* demonstrated good procedural validity. (First MB, Opler LA, Hamilton RM, Linder J, Linfield LS, Silver JM, Toshav NL, Kahn D, Williams JB, Spitzer RL, Evaluation in an inpatient setting of DTREE, a computer-assisted diagnostic assessment procedure. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*. 1993 May-Jun;34(3):171-5.).

Sincerely,



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