1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2	COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION
3	
4	x In the matter of:
5	
6	THE ADDICTION REHABILITATION INDUSTRY
7	54-3
8	x
9	PUBLIC HEARING
10	AT: STATE HOUSE ANNEX
11	131-137 West State Street Trenton, New Jersey
12	DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022
13	TIME: 10:00 A.M.
14	D E E O D E. MIEENNY MILITANG DDEMED Choir
15	B E F O R E: TIFFANY WILLIAMS BREWER, Chair CHADD W. LACKEY, Executive Director KEVIN R. REINA, Commissioner
16	
17	APPEARANCES:
18	MARIAN GALIETTA, ESQ. LISA CIALINO, ESQ.
19	Counsel to the Commission
	GILBERT L. BROOKS, ESQ.
20	MATTHEW M. CAMINITI, ESQ. Counsel for the Witness
21	
22	
23	
24	RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES BY: DONNA BRUNCK, CCR
25	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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1
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: We are ready to
2
  proceed. Wonderful. Good morning.
                                        I'm Tiffany
  Williams Brewer. I'm the chair of the State
  Commission of Investigation and we are reconvened
5
  today for SCI's public hearing into the addiction
  rehabilitation industry in New Jersey.
6
7
                  This proceeding is a continuation of
8
  the hearing held here on October 11th that exposed
  significant abuses in the operation of drug and
  alcohol treatment centers and rehabs across the
10
11
  state.
12
                  I'd like to introduce other members
13
  of the Commission. Sitting to my right is
14
  Commissioner Kevin Reina. Commissioner Burzichelli
  had planned to join us today but had a death in his
16
  family. On behalf of the Commission, we send
17
  condolences to Commissioner Burzichelli and his
18 loved ones. Our fourth commissioner, John Lacey,
  out of an abundance of caution and to avoid any
19
20
  appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest,
  recused himself from this inquiry and is not present
21
22
  today.
          Also joining us is Executive Director Chadd
23 Lackey, Chief Counsel Marian Galietta, and Counsel
24 Lisa Cialino, who led the investigative team in this
2.5
  case.
```

```
Only a few weeks ago the SCI first
1
2
  exposed how broken the addiction recovery industry
  is in our state and how rampant it is with
  corruption, fraud and unethical practices. We found
5
  the type of care patients received or even which
  treatments centers to admit them is often based more
  on the quality of their private insurance coverage
  and how much it will pay out instead of the services
  they need to overcome drug or alcohol dependence.
  Making things worse, much of this inappropriate and
10
  elicit conduct occurs with impunity because various
12
  areas of the addiction rehabilitation industry
  remain largely unregulated, making it easy to
13
14 exploit patients.
                 We are reconvening here today to take
15
16
  testimony from a witness, Nicholas DeSimone, the
17
  lowner of an outpatient addiction center, Kingsway
18
  Recovery Center, in Mullica Hill.
                                      During our
19
  October 11th hearing, SCI investigators, through
20
  sworn testimony and multiple exhibits, detailed
21
  findings of what appeared to be questionable billing
  practices at the facility. The Commission found
23 some of these proceeds obtained from insurance
24
  companies helped further Mr. DeSimone's treatment
  center's operations and fund a lavish lifestyle.
```

```
This SCI subpoenaed Mr. DeSimone to
1
2
  testify and answer questions about our findings at
  our earlier public hearing but he failed to appear.
  His action prompted the Commission to file a motion
  of contempt with the court to compel his testimony
  before this panel, and Mr. DeSimone is here today
7
  pursuant to the Commission's lawfully issued
8
  subpoena.
9
                  Today's proceeding is important
  because it allows Mr. DeSimone to have the
10
11
  opportunity to respond to questions from SCI counsel
12
  about the Commission's findings concerning financial
13
  practices and patient care at his treatment center.
14 Mr. DeSimone's appearance today also underscores the
15
  Commission's statutory authority to compel witness
16
  attendance in conducting fact finding
17
  investigations, power which courts have consistently
18
  upheld in the Commission's favor.
19
                  I'll now turn it over to Counsel
20
  Cialino who will briefly recap the testimony the
21
  third panel of witnesses provided in our prior
  hearing, and after that summary, Ms. Cialino will
2.3
  call Mr. DeSimone to testify.
24
                  Counsel, the floor is yours.
2.5
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                Thank you, chair.
                                                    As
```

the chair indicated, we are here to reconvene the SCI's public hearing on the addiction rehabilitation industry which was held on October 11th of this 4 year. 5 To refresh your memories about the investigative findings detailed in that earlier 6 proceeding, I'm going to give a brief summary of the testimony provided by SCI agents and other witnesses regarding Kingsway Recovery Center. 10 Kingsway Recovery Center is an 11 butpatient addiction treatment facility located in 12 Mullica Hill, New Jersey. SCI forensic accountant, 13 Laura Mercandetti, testified that Kingsway only 14 accepts private insurance and self-pay clients. 15 was explained by both SCI witnesses and an outside witness that addiction rehabilitation industries --16 17 excuse me, addiction rehabilitation facilities often 18 prefer clients who have private insurance over Medicaid and Medicare, because private companies pay 20 at a higher rate for patient care which enables the 21 treatment center to maximize their profits. 22 At the public hearing, SCI agents 2.3 testified that patients did not always get the care 24 that they were supposed to receive at the facility.

Therapy sessions were often cut short from 45

```
minutes to as little as 15 minutes. Sometimes,
  there were overlapping client services where clients
  would be taken out of a therapy session early to
  meet with a nurse or to get help writing a resume.
  Insurance companies were still billed the entire
  amount for these services. SCI agents also
  testified that workers at the facility were
  instructed to engage in certain unethical practices
  such as contaminating the urine samples of clients
10
  doing well in the recovery with those that were not,
11
  as to make it seem as if the client was not making
  progress, allowing Kingsway to continue billing
13
  insurance companies for services at a higher rate.
14
                 The Commission also found evidence of
  other questionable billing practices at Kingsway.
16
  SCI agent, Karen Guhl, testified that her review of
17
  billing records revealed evidence showing insurance
18
  companies were billed by Kingsway for the same
19
  services twice. In doing so, Kingsway was billed
20
  for bundle addiction treatment services for a
21
  patient and then billed again for the same patient
  for the services that were included in the bundle
23 item by item.
                 Agent Guhl testified that from her
  review of the records, these questionable billings
  were done, quote, done virtually every day on a
```

```
daily basis.
1
2
                  SCI agents testified that Kingsway
  used Graceway Sober Living to house their patients.
  Graceway Sober Living is run by Nicholas DeSimone's
  wife, Michelle DeSimone.
                             The Commission
  investigation revealed that almost all of Graceway's
  residents attended Kingsway for addiction treatment.
  Graceway would lure clients in with enticements such
  as little to no rent, meals, transportation, gifts
10
  and other necessities that someone might need,
  which, in turn, incentivized patients to attend
12
  Kingsway.
             In return, since sober living facilities
13
  cannot bill insurance companies for clients stays,
14
  the insurance payments for treatment residents
15
  received at Kingsway funded Graceway's operations.
16
                  Forensic accountant, Laura
17
  Mercandetti, explained how over $15 million in
18
  health insurance proceeds, some of which were
19
  obtained through duplicatus billing practices,
20
  enabled Graceway to grow from one sober home to six
21
  in a span of a few short years.
                                    The ill-gotten
  gains also financed the DeSimones' lavish lifestyle
23
  buying luxury goods and vehicles and pumping their
24
  investment accounts with $1-1/2 million in cash.
2.5
                  In addition to the deceptive billing
```

```
records, there were other red flags discovered in
  the DeSimones' banking records that appeared
  designed to avoid scrutiny of financial regulators.
4
                 Forensic Accountant Mercandetti
5
  identified multiple instances of transactions that
  were consistent with a practice known as
  structuring, where a larger transaction is broken
  into smaller transactions over several days to avoid
  triggering federal banking reporting requirements
10
  for amounts over $10,000 in one day. The Commission
  discovered many transfers from Kingsway's bank
12
  account into the DeSimones' personal accounts in the
13
  amount of $9,000 on the same or consecutive days.
  Agent Mercandetti testified that structuring may be
  an indicator of money laundering, tax evasion or
15
  other nefarious activity.
17
                 The Commission found that the
18
  DeSimones also had a practice of transferring large
19
  round dollar amounts regularly on the same day or
20
  near consecutive days from Kingsway into their own
21
  personal accounts. Agent Mercandetti testified that
  there was a rapid movement of funds, meaning as soon
23 as the insurance money would hit the Kingsway
  account it would be transferred out under lavish
  lifestyle to also to fund their business operations.
```

```
The monies flowing through the various personal and
  business accounts were also circular in nature with
  money transfers among multiple accounts made in what
  appeared to be an attempt to disquise the origin of
  the funds which was the insurance money.
  instance, while no money went directly from Kingsway
  to Graceway, only $15,000 went directly from
  Kingsway to Michelle DeSimone. Over $1.5 million of
  the insurance money received by Kingsway went to
10
  fund Graceway Sober Living. Agent Mercandetti
11
  testified that based on her experience, these types
12
  of bank transfers were in line with money laundering
  and tax evasion.
13
14
                  With that summary completed, at this
  time I'd like to Nicholas DeSimone to come forward
  and testify before the Commission.
17
  attorneys can come up with him.
18
                  MR. BROOKS:
                              Good morning, Chair,
19
  members of the Commission, Gilbert Brooks from the
20
  firm of Duane Morris appearing on behalf of Mr.
  DeSimone.
21
22
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Good morning.
2.3
                  MR. CAMINITI: Matt Caminiti from
24
  Duane Morris also appearing for Mr. DeSimone.
2.5
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Good morning.
```

```
Good morning, Mr. DeSimone.
1
2
                  THE WITNESS: Good morning.
3
                  MS. CIALINO: If the witness could be
  sworn in.
4
5
  NICHOLAS DeSIMONE, having been first duly sworn,
6
7
  testified as follows:
8
  DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CIALINO:
10
                  Thank you.
                            Good morning, Mr.
  DeSimone.
             Before I begin my questioning of you,
12
  there's several preliminary matters that I need to
13
  bring to your attention. I'm going to read through
14 these instructions that go along with the public
15 hearing before I begin.
16
                  The Commission issued you a subpoena
17
  pursuant to a duly adopted resolution. Accompanying
18
  that subpoena was a general statement which
19
  describes the subject of the Commission's
20 investigation. Attached to that subpoena was a
21
  State Commission of Investigation's Enabling Statute
22 and Code of Fair Procedure. These documents
23 described your rights and responsibilities under the
24 Commission's Enabling Statute as well as any
25 restrictions imposed by law.
```

```
Since your testimony is taken under
1
2
  loath, I need to ask you if you are under the
  influence of any prescription or illicit drugs or
  alcohol that would impair your ability to make
5
  decisions and provide testimony today?
6
         Α.
                  No.
7
                  Again, since your testimony is taken
         0.
8
  under oath, if you answer a question and you know
  your answer is false, you could be charged with
10
  perjury.
            Do you understand that?
11
         Α.
                  Yes.
12
         Q.
                  Additionally, your attorney has
13
  submitted five pages of questions ahead of this
14
  hearing which I have reviewed and incorporated many
15
  of them into the questions for you here today.
                                                     Ιf
16
  there's anything that I failed to ask that you feel
17
  is important that to be said and we be made aware
18
  of, at the end of your testimony I will give you an
19
  opportunity to make a statement for the record.
20
                  Do you understand that?
21
         Α.
                  Yes.
22
         0.
                  If you don't understand a question
23
  that I ask or if you don't hear it, let me know and
24
  I'll either repeat the question or have it read back
2.5
  to you. Do you understand?
```

```
Α.
1
                  Yes.
 2
                  Now, it's my understanding that you
         Q.
 3
  have an attorney present here today. Is that
 4
   correct?
 5
         Α.
                  Um-hmm, yes.
                  MR. BROOKS:
                                Yes.
 6
 7
                  Have you had the opportunity to
         0.
8
   consult with your attorneys prior to this hearing?
 9
         Α.
                  Yes.
10
                  Are you satisfied with your
11
  attorney's representation at this point?
12
         Α.
                  Yes.
13
                  If at any point during your -- the
14
  course of your testimony you need a break just to
  take a break or to speak to your attorney, let me
15
  know and I will give you the opportunity to do so.
17
                  Lastly, as I previously indicated
18
  since your testimony is taken under oath, it will be
19
  transcribed by the court reporter. If you feel your
20
  testimony may tend to incriminate you in criminal
21
  conduct, you may refuse to answer the question.
22
                  Have you gone over that right with
23
  your attorney?
24
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.5
                  We will begin. If you could just
         Q.
```

```
state your full name for the record?
1
 2
                  Nicholas DeSimone.
 3
         0.
                  Did you have the opportunity to hear
 4
  the Commission's testimony related to Kingsway
  Recovery on October 11, 2022?
 6
         Α.
                   Yes.
 7
         0.
                  Are you the owner and CEO of Kingsway
  Recovery, LLC or as it's called, Kingsway Recovery
8
  and Addiction Center in Mullica Hill?
10
                  Yes.
         Α.
11
         Q.
                  Are there any other owners of
12
  Kingsway?
13
         Α.
                  No.
14
         Q.
                  Are you currently married?
15
         Α.
                  Yes.
16
                  What is your wife's name?
         0.
17
         Α.
                  Michelle DeSimone.
18
                  Does your wife, Michelle DeSimone,
19
  own any companies that you are aware of?
20
         Α.
                  Graceway.
21
                  What is Graceway?
         0.
22
                  Transitional living homes.
         Α.
2.3
                  Outside of Graceway, do you know if
         0.
24
  she owns any other companies?
2.5
         Α.
                  Yes, I believe there's a
```

```
1
   transportation company.
 2
                  Do you know what that's called?
         Q.
 3
         Α.
                  Favor En Route.
 4
         0.
                  What is Favor En Route to your
 5
  knowledge?
 6
                   Transportation company.
         Α.
                                             That's it.
 7
                  Who does it transport?
         Q.
 8
         Α.
                  Umm, people, people that have
  addictions that are trying to stay in recovery.
10
                  Now outside of owning Graceway and
         Q.
11
  Favor En Route, do you know if your wife has any
12
  additional employment?
13
                  No.
         Α.
14
                   In addition to Kingsway Recovery, do
         0.
  you own any other companies?
16
                  Yeah, one is called Renewed Light.
         Α.
17
  And then South Jersey Treatment Management Company,
  but that's not active.
18
19
         Q.
                  What is Renewed Light?
20
         Α.
                   It's a mental health outpatient.
21
                  And are you the -- do you have any
         0.
22
  other role besides owner of that facility?
23
         Α.
                  No.
24
                   What was the second one you said,
25
  South Jersey --
```

1	Α.	Treatment Management Company.
2	Q.	What is that?
3	А.	It's actually being worked on by
4	Duane Mor	ris right now, so we don't know the
5	actual	what that is actually going to be yet.
6	Q.	So it has not gotten off the ground
7	yet?	
8	А.	Yeah.
9	Q.	When did Renewed Light, when did that
10	begin?	
11	А.	April.
12	Q.	April of 2022?
13	А.	Yes.
14	Q.	What about D28 Real Estate?
15	Α.	I'm not sure when that was started.
16	Q.	Is that a company that you are the
17	owner of?	
18	А.	Yes.
19	Q.	What is D28?
20	Α.	D28 owns the building that Kingsway
21	operates	out of.
22	Q.	Does that have any other owners?
23	Α.	D28? No.
24	Q.	Does it own any other property other
25	than the	building that Kingsway operates out of?

1	Α.	Yes, it owns the property that
2	Renewed Light o	operates out of too.
3	Q.	Any other companies that you
4	currently own?	
5	Α.	No.
6	Q.	Any other employment for you outside
7	of owning King:	sway, Renewed Light, D28 and South
8	Jersey Treatme	nt and Management Company?
9	Α.	No.
10	Q.	Do you take a salary from Kingsway?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	What's your salary?
13	Α.	I'm sorry.
14	Q.	Go ahead.
15	Α.	65,000.
16	Q.	Has that changed over time or has it
17	always been 65,	,000?
18	Α.	I believe it's been 65,000.
19	Q.	When did Kingsway Recovery open?
20	Α.	It was like October, November 2018.
21	Q.	Why did you decide to open Kingsway
22	Recovery back :	in 2018?
23	Α.	So, umm, starting at about 16 years
24	old, I develope	ed a drinking problem. It continued
25	with me for yea	ars, you know, through athletics and
	I and the second se	

```
into my twenties working at different places and
  through college and all that, you know, I was
  drinking very heavily. I was sick a lot.
  couldn't, I couldn't perform well.
5
                 As that continued, I lost jobs.
  had to live at home with my parents for years.
6
  as I got into my latter twenties, I got into the
8 mortgage banking industry, and the reason I got into
  that, the banking industry was because I didn't have
  to be at work until 11:00 and I could work until
10
11
  seven, so my hangovers weren't that bad at 11:00 and
12
  I could get in to work, and so it was a great job
13
  for me to drink with.
14
                 And so my addiction kept progressing,
  and when there was the mortgage crash and
  everything, I really -- I even got worse and I
17
  started, you know, just drinking pints of vodka.
                                                     Ι
18
  lost my companies. I lost my houses -- well, my
19
  house. I lost everything, and I had to go back in
20
  my mid thirties to live with my parents and kept
21
  drinking.
22
                  So I actually met my wife when I was
23 still drinking, so she -- I was okay at hiding it a
24 little bit, so she didn't -- she didn't know how bad
  it really was, so when we decided to get married,
```

```
she found out that it was, it was really bad, you
  know, that I was drinking two to three pints of
  vodka a day, so she called off the wedding and I
  went even lower, like so I kept drinking even more,
  and I put myself into an IOP which helped, and --
  but I kept relapsing out of that IOP.
                                          My living
  environment wasn't -- my parents are very loving.
8 My parents are very loving, but it was where I drank
  all the time, so my living environment kept causing
10 me to relapse, because it was like the origination
11 point of drinking and all that.
12
                  So at that point I had to -- I hit
13 like a crossroads and it was either I was going to
14 die or I was going to live. So I decided to live,
15 and I called my sponsor who got me into AA and I met
  him at AA and we went in and it was like my first
  meeting and I kind of took to it and so I stopped.
17
18
  I stopped drinking and my life started getting
19
  better, and then me and my wife re-engaged and I was
20
  still in banking.
21
                  So I'm going to AA, I'm helping
  people, right, I'm trying to like, you know, give
23 hope to people in AA, and then I would go back into
  the banking world and it just didn't work anymore,
  you know? I couldn't do it. I just wasn't the same
```

```
person, so I, umm, I decided to go back and get my
  master's degree in addiction counseling, so I went
  to Grand Canyon University and it was pretty neat,
  because I didn't know at the time but I was
  discipling underneath my pastor, and I was in a
6
  coffee shop across the street where Kingsway was
  going to eventually start, so it was pretty neat,
  like, I just thought that was like a big God moment,
  so I kept going with my pastor, talking to my wife,
10
  and I decided to call my accountant, Joseph
11 Kornicki, and I said, you know, Joe, I, you know,
12
  I'm in my master's program.
                              I'm working at
13
  different treatment modalities, and I said I think I
14 have the skill sets to open up my own treatment
15 center, and he goes I can help you and that's how
  Kingsway really incepted. Then I went back with my
17
  wife and I showed her, you know, the business plan
18
  and the policy and procedures and all that stuff,
19
  and she started crying, because it was, you know, it
20
  was coming to life.
21
                  So she said okay. I didn't think she
  was going to say okay, but we were living in a
23 basement at that point, because I went -- we were
24 living in our parents' basement because I went -- I
  had to leave the banking industry and we -- I lost
```

```
two-thirds of my salary, so I was -- I wasn't making
  much and she had to work three jobs while I was
  working one job and going to school full time
  getting my master's and then getting my Ph.D., and
5
  then we opened the facility.
                  So you mentioned you consulted with
6
7
  your accountant at the time, Joseph Kornicki, to
  open Kingsway. Did you consult with anyone else in
  the addiction industry prior to opening up Kingsway?
10
                  Yes.
        Α.
11
                  Who was that?
         0.
12
         Α.
                  Umm, I consulted with all my -- like
13
  all my supervisors that were working with me in
14
  different treatment facilities.
15
         Q.
                  So who were they?
16
                  James Bunti was one of them.
         Α.
17
  trying to think who else. I'm not sure who else.
18
  I'm sorry.
19
                  Now, you talked a little bit about
         0.
20
  your prior employment history your prior employment
  background, and you mentioned you were in the
22 mortgage industry, the banking industry.
                                              Tell me
23 about your past employment. What exactly did you
24
  do?
2.5
                  I don't understand.
        Α.
```

```
1
                  What were your jobs?
                                         I know mortgage
        Q.
2
  industry, but that's a big industry. What
  specifically did you do in the mortgage industry?
4
                  I was a loan officer and then I ran a
        Α.
5
  franchise branch.
6
                  What company is that?
7
        Α.
                  Umm, it was called Nova Star and then
8
  it was changed into Integrated Financial Group.
9
                  So when you ran a franchise branch,
        Q.
  What were your job duties? What did that consist
11 of?
12
        Α.
                  At that point it was more helping the
13 loan officers.
14
                  So what exactly -- just give me a
        Q.
15 little bit more information, since I'm not familiar
  with the mortgage industry. What exactly does a
17 loan officer do?
18
                  A loan officer helps set up the loans
19
  for a buyer or a person refinancing perhaps.
20
  more refinancing accounts.
21
                  So you're working with the client, I
22
  quess?
2.3
                  Yeah, over the phone.
                                         A lot like
        Α.
  ever hear of Lending Tree and stuff like that?
25 Lending Tree, that's what we did. We were a big --
```

```
so I was internal. I needed that, because I needed
1
  to be in that because I was drinking.
                                           I had sales
  jobs before that when I was out in the road, and
  that did not work for me, so it was good to be
 5
  around a team.
                  So in addition to being a loan
 6
 7
  officer and running a franchise branch of the
  mortgage company, what other jobs have you had in
  the banking industry?
                  That's it.
10
         Α.
11
                  So when did you stop working at these
         Q.
12
  places?
            What year was this?
13
                  I transferred into the addiction
         Α.
14
  treatment world in 2013.
15
         Q.
                  So when did you start working in the
  banking or the mortgage industry?
17
                  About 2000.
         Α.
18
                  So from approximately 2000 to 2013
         Q.
19
  would you say?
20
                  Um-hmm.
         Α.
21
                  Yes?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.3
                  Now, the -- when you -- 2013 when you
         Q.
24 left the mortgage industry, what was your next job
2.5
  after that?
```

1	A. I was interning at Maryville
2	residential treatment facility in Williamstown.
3	Q. As an intern, what did you do?
4	A. A lot of people there, a lot, I did
5	some groups, yeah.
6	Q. So when you said you did some groups,
7	would that be you ran a group therapy session?
8	A. Yeah.
9	Q. What would that consist of?
10	A. Just going through recovery points,
11	evidence based treatments, CBT, cognitive behavioral
12	therapy.
13	Q. After being an intern at Maryville,
14	what was your next job in the addiction industry?
15	A. Taking me back pretty far. Umm,
16	okay, so then I went to work at a methadone clinic.
17	My supervisor started working at a methadone
18	facility, and he wanted to get me experience over
19	there, so he recommended that I come over there with
20	him.
21	Q. What was the methadone clinic called?
22	A. Delaware Valley Medical.
23	Q. What did you do at the methadone
24	clinic?
25	A. I had a large caseload counseling

```
clients, ran some groups there.
1
 2
                  About what years was that?
 3
         Α.
                  That was the end of 2013 to 2015.
 4
                  After you left the methadone clinic
         0.
 5
  at Delaware Valley Medical, what did you do next for
  work?
                  I had spent almost a couple years in
  the methadone clinic, and that's a lot.
  probably one of the most tenured counselors at that
10
  point, but I wanted to get back out into more of a
11 recovery-based treatment, so I went and started
12
  working at Genesis Counseling Services, and I was
13
  located in Marlton.
14
                  Say that again, you were what?
         Q.
15
                  Genesis Counseling Services.
         Α.
16
         Q.
                  What did you do there?
17
         Α.
                  Ran groups, therapy to groups, did
18
  one-on-ones.
19
         0.
                  You did individual and group
20
  counseling there?
21
                  Yeah, um-hmm.
         Α.
22
         0.
                  How long did you work at Genesis
23
  Counseling Services?
24
         Α.
                  That was about two years.
2.5
                  So approximately 2015 to 2017?
         Q.
```

1	Α.	Roughly, yes.
2	Q.	How much did you get paid there?
3	Α.	25,000 maybe.
4	Q.	What about at the methadone clinic,
5	do you re	ecall how much you got paid a year there?
6	Α.	About 29, 30.
7	Q.	Now Genesis Counseling Services, when
8	you left	there, where did you go next?
9	Α.	Okay, so when I left Genesis, I
10	had I	went to I went into one of the private
11	care, so	it was Victory Bay.
12	Q.	Victory Bay is located where?
13	Α.	Laurel Springs.
14	Q.	New Jersey?
15	Α.	Um-hmm, yes.
16	Q.	What did you do at Victory Bay?
17	Α.	Did one-on-ones, ran groups.
18	Q.	What was your salary there?
19	Α.	50,000.
20	Q.	How long were you at Victory Bay for?
21	Α.	About six or seven months.
22	Q.	Why did you leave there?
23	Α.	I was let go.
24	Q.	What was the reasoning that you were
25	let go?	What were you told was the reasoning you

```
were let go?
1
 2
                  I -- I -- I'm trying to think.
  got, I think I got into a small verbal argument
  about therapies.
 5
         Q.
                  Okay. Now, when you left Victory Bay
  or when you were let go from Victory Bay, did you
 6
  have another job after that in the addiction
  treatment industry?
 9
         Α.
                  Yeah, I worked part time at My
  Friend's House while I was starting to set up
11 Kingsway.
12
         Q.
                  What is My Friend's House?
13
         Α.
                  Another treatment facility.
14
                  Outpatient, inpatient?
         Q.
15
         Α.
                  Outpatient.
16
                  I'm sorry, just to make sure I'm
         Q.
17
  clear, Victory Bay, is that an outpatient treatment
18
  center?
19
         Α.
                  Yes.
20
                  My Friend's House you said was part
         Q.
21
  time. How much were you getting paid for My
22
  Friend's House?
2.3
         Α.
                  Maybe about 500 a week.
24
                  What was your -- what were your jobs
         0.
2.5
  there?
```

1	Α.	Umm, I was just running therapy
2	groups.	
3	Q.	Both group and individual?
4	Α.	No, I wasn't doing individual.
5	Q.	Group therapy groups?
6	Α.	Um-hmm, yes.
7	Q.	Now when you left or did you have
8	any other jobs	after My Friend's House or is that
9	when Kingsway o	opened?
10	Α.	That's when Kingsway opened.
11	Q.	Is My Friend's House still in
12	business, do yo	ou know?
13	Α.	I'm not sure.
14	Q.	Where was that located?
15	Α.	Woodbury.
16	Q.	Now you also mentioned a little bit
17	about your educ	cational background. You said you had
18	a master's in w	what?
19	Α.	Addictions counseling.
20	Q.	When did you get that?
21	Α.	2015.
22	Q.	And where was that from?
23	Α.	Grand Canyon University.
24	Q.	Where is that located?
25	Α.	Phoenix, Arizona.

```
1
                   Were you out in Phoenix at the time
         0.
 2
   or was that remote?
 3
         Α.
                   Remote.
                   Now -- so besides that master's in
 4
         0.
 5
  addiction counseling, do you have any other degrees
   or educational background?
 6
 7
                   Ph.D.
         Α.
 8
         0.
                   Where did you get your Ph.D. from?
 9
         Α.
                   Grand Canyon University.
10
         0.
                   What year was that?
         Α.
                   2020.
11
12
         0.
                   What was, what is the Ph.D. in?
13
                   General psychology.
         Α.
14
                   With the Ph.D. in general industry,
         0.
15
  what does that allow?
16
         Α.
                   Psychology.
17
         Q.
                   Now, when you were running groups
18
  back in 2013, 2014, is that something that you need
  that master's in addiction counseling for or how
19
  does that work?
20
21
                   Um-hmm, yes.
         Α.
22
                   So you got the master's in addiction
         Q.
23
  counseling in 2015. Prior to that, were you doing
24
  counseling work?
25
                   Umm, I was doing counseling work as
         Α.
```

```
an intern, so can I -- you want me to explain?
1
2
                  Yeah, how does that work?
3
                  Let me explain it. When you're an
         Α.
  intern, you go underneath a supervisor and you could
  be in school and whatever in the addiction treatment
  world, so you can -- you don't start like -- you
7
  don't start afterwards, you know.
8
                  So you're interning and once you get
         Q.
  the degree, you can become an actual --
10
                  A certified addiction counselor or a
        Α.
11 licensed.
12
         Q.
                  Now, do you know if there's any rules
13
  as to, you know, how many interns can be, you know,
14 working as counselors at a treatment facility in
15 Jersey at a time?
                  There's -- I can't remember the
16
17
  actual standard, but it's a 50/50 split is what's
18
  supposed to happen at the treatment center.
19
                  Now, I want to get back to or
         0.
20
  actually just to back up, master's, Ph.D., do you
21
  have a bachelor's degree?
22
        Α.
                  Yes.
2.3
                  What's that in?
         0.
24
         Α.
                  Communications.
2.5
                  Any other degrees or anything like
        Q.
```

```
that, certificates --
1
2
        Α.
                  Yes.
                  -- that we haven't talked about?
3
         0.
4
                        I have an LPC, licensed
        Α.
                  Yes.
5
  professional counselor. I'm an LCAD, licensed
  clinical alcohol and drug counselor.
6
                                          I'm an
  ICGC-II, that's a gambling counselor. I also hold a
  couple supervisory certificates for mental health
  and gaming.
10
                  I want to get back to Kingsway.
11 Kingsway have a mission statement?
12
                  Yes, providing winning solutions,
         Α.
13 providing winning solutions that cover --
14
                  It's okay if you don't know it
         Q.
15 verbatim.
16
                  Yeah, providing winning solutions
        Α.
17
  that cover the entire treatment.
18
                  Okay, now has that mission statement
19
  changed over time or has that been pretty much the
20
  same since 2018?
21
                  It's the same.
         Α.
22
                  Now what type of company is Kingsway
         Q.
23 Recovery, an LLC? A corporation?
24
         Α.
                  It's an S Corp.
2.5
                  What's your understanding of what an
         Q.
```

```
S Corp. is?
1
 2
                  An S Corp. is a business where you,
  your kind of combined with the, your business and
  personal accounts.
 4
 5
         Q.
                  Now, how long has Kingsway Recovery
  been an S Corp.?
 6
 7
                  Umm, I would say 2019, I believe.
         Α.
 8
                  And prior to 2019, what type of
         0.
  company was Kingsway Recovery?
10
                  I believe it was an LLC. I'm not
         Α.
11
  sure though in that.
12
                  Why was it switched to an S Corp.
13
  sometime around 2019?
14
         Α.
                  That was under the guidance of my
15
  accountant.
16
                  Joseph Kornicki or someone else?
         Q.
17
         Α.
                  Joseph Kornicki.
18
                  Do you know why he advised you to set
         Q.
19
  it up that way?
20
                  I didn't understand.
         Α.
21
                  He told you, but you don't --
         0.
                  Yeah, I --
22
         Α.
2.3
                  All right.
                              Now, when you first
         Q.
  opened Kingsway, so going back to 2018, end of 2018,
  what was your role at the facility on a day-to-day
```

```
basis?
1
 2
                  I was getting the billing company
  hired and I was getting the electronic medical
  records put in and working on getting staff hired.
 4
 5
         Q.
                  So that's kind of when you were first
  opening?
 6
 7
                  Um-hmm.
         Α.
                  Yes?
 8
         0.
 9
         Α.
                  Yes.
10
         Q.
                  At that time so you are setting up,
11
  you are getting the billing company. Who was that
  at the time?
12
13
                  It was called ReliaBill.
         Α.
14
                  You were getting the electronic
         Q.
  medical records system. What electronic medical
  records system did you use?
16
17
         Α.
                  KIPU.
18
                  And you were hiring staff. Were you
  doing any other day-to-day work in terms of were you
19
20
  seeing patients or anything like that?
21
                  In the beginning, we had, you know,
         Α.
  just a very small amount coming in, so I was seeing
23
  some patients.
24
                  Seeing patients, does that mean you
  were doing individual therapy sessions?
```

```
1
         Α.
                  Yes, and groups. We had a very -- we
 2
  only had like three groups at night.
 3
                  Now as Kingsway grew as a treatment
         Q.
  center, did your role -- or how did your role
 5
  change?
                   I started kind of stepping back and
 6
         Α.
 7
  just, you know, help training everybody.
8
         0.
                   So your title is the CEO; is that
  correct?
10
                  Um-hmm.
         Α.
11
                  Yes?
         Q.
12
         Α.
                  Yes.
13
                   So when you say you said help train
         0.
  everybody, what do you currently do on a day-to-day
14
15
  basis for Kingsway Recovery?
16
                  My interactions are with the director
         Α.
17
  of operations.
18
                  And the director of operations
19
  currently, who is that?
20
                  Rebecca Pera.
         Α.
21
                  How long has Rebecca been there?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  Two-and-a-half years.
2.3
                  Anybody else that you are currently
         Q.
24
  interact with at Kingsway Recovery?
2.5
         Α.
                  Not really, not about the business.
```

```
What about in terms of the
1
         0.
 2
   clinicians?
 3
         Α.
                   No.
 4
                   You have no interactions with them?
         0.
 5
         Α.
                   No.
 6
                   What about the billing department, do
         0.
7
  you have any interactions with them?
8
         Α.
                   No, no.
 9
         0.
                   So as CEO, you just talk to Rebecca,
  what's her last name?
11
         Α.
                   Pera.
12
                   Power?
         Q.
13
                   Pera, P-e-r-a.
         Α.
14
                   Who oversees -- so does Rebecca
         Q.
  oversee the day-to-day operation of the facility?
16
                   Yes.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                   And she's done that for
18
  two-and-a-half years or has her role changed over
19
  time?
20
         Α.
                   It's changed.
21
                   Prior to her, who oversaw the
         Q.
  facility on a day-to-day basis?
2.3
                   Jessica Mercier.
         Α.
24
         0.
                   When did Jessica leave?
2.5
         Α.
                   A few months ago.
```

```
Do you know why she left or why she
1
         Q.
 2
  told you she was leaving?
 3
         Α.
                  She had gotten another position,
 4
  better salary.
 5
         Q.
                  When would you say, I know it's hard
  to put an exact date on it, when would you say you
 6
7
  transitioned as CEO from, you know, being more hands
  on to just interacting with the director of
  operations at the facility?
                  '19, 2019.
10
         Α.
11
         Q.
                  So since 2019, you really, when you
12
  say you interact with the director of operations,
13
  can you explain what you do?
14
                  Just talk to her about -- I talk to
         Α.
  her about how the culture is. I'm big on the
16
  culture.
17
                  Do you handle hiring for Kingsway
         Q.
  Recovery?
18
19
         Α.
                  No.
20
                  Do you meet with people before they
         Q.
  are hired kind of as the final step before they are
22
  offered a job?
2.3
         Α.
                  No.
24
                  So how many times a day are you
  talking to Rebecca or let's say your director of
```

```
operations since 2019?
1
2
                  I -- few times a day.
3
                  So is it a conversation on the phone?
         Q.
  Are they conversations in person? Can you explain a
5
  little more? I'm trying to get a sense of what
  you're actually doing on a day-to-day --
7
                  I meet with her at the facility, and
         Α.
  then I talk to her on the phone.
9
                  What are those conversations about?
         Q.
10
  Just how -- can you explain a little more about what
  you're talking about?
12
                  Umm, just about how everybody's
13
  working together, because I believe, you know, if
14
  the culture is good at the facility, then it will
15
  trickle down to the clients.
16
                  So besides your concern of the
17
  culture at the facility, which I understand there's
18
  nothing else you discussed with the director of
19
  operations on a regular basis?
20
                  That's the main part of it.
        Α.
21
                  What are the other parts?
         0.
22
        Α.
                  Umm, like operational things.
2.3
                  Like?
         Q.
24
                  We are putting on an expansion, so I
         Α.
  talked to her about that.
```

```
Okay. How would you define your role
1
         0.
2
  as like the title CEO, what does that mean to you?
 3
         Α.
                   Means that I'm helping build the
  facility.
 4
 5
         Q.
                   Build the company or build the
  facility?
 6
 7
                   Build the company.
         Α.
 8
                   Now, in your role as CEO, have you --
         0.
  do you have access to the KIPU system, the
10
  electronic medical records system?
11
                   Yes.
         Α.
12
         Q.
                   Do you review any KIPU records as
  part of your job as CEO?
13
14
         Α.
                   No.
15
         Q.
                   Have you ever reviewed KIPU records
  in your job as CEO?
17
         Α.
                   No.
18
                   Now, have you ever instructed
19
  employees how to input information into the KIPU
20
  system?
21
         Α.
                   No.
22
                   So who handles that?
         0.
2.3
                   The clinical director.
         Α.
24
                   So who's the clinical director?
         Q.
2.5
         Α.
                   James Martinez.
```

1	Q. How long has James been the clinical
2	director?
3	A. About six or seven months.
4	Q. Prior to James being the clinical
5	director, who was the clinical director at Kingsway?
6	A. Jessica Mercier.
7	Q. Was that before Jessica was director
8	of operations or was she both clinical director and
9	director of operations at the same time?
10	A. She did both.
11	Q. Who does the clinical director report
12	to?
13	A. Rebecca.
14	Q. The director of operations?
15	A. Correct.
16	Q. And then the director of operations
17	reports to you, correct?
18	A. Um-hmm.
19	Q. Who else reports to the director of
20	operations?
21	A. The director of admissions, the
22	director of HR, the controller, billing team.
23	Q. Now, so when Jessica Mercier was both
24	the director of operations and the clinical
25	director, I guess she reported to you as well

```
essentially as clinical director in addition to the
  director of operations, correct?
 2
 3
         Α.
                  Yes.
 4
                  Can you tell me a little bit about
         Q.
 5
  the services that Kingsway Recovery offers?
 6
         Α.
                  Partial care, intensive outpatient,
7
  and outpatient.
8
                  So you said patient care, is that
         Q.
  partial hospitalization or PHP?
10
                                       That's a weird
         Α.
                  It's partial care.
  terminology that people throw out there and stuff.
12
  It's partial care. That's what we call it.
13
                  Can you explain what partial care
14
  consists of?
15
                  It consists of five-hour days. The
         Α.
  clients there for five hours, five days a week.
17
                  During that five hours that they are
         Q.
18
  at the facility, what type of services are partial
19
  care patients receiving?
20
         Α.
                  Group, yeah, group, group services.
21
                  Group therapy for five hours?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.3
                  Any other care that they are provided
         Q.
24
  or services they are provided?
2.5
         Α.
                  Umm, you know, they come into the
```

```
facility and they may have a medical, they might see
  the doctor.
 3
                  They might see the doctor?
         Q.
 4
         Α.
                  They get set to see the APNs for
 5
  medications.
                  APN is advanced practice nurse?
 6
         0.
 7
         Α.
                  Yes.
 8
         0.
                  And you mentioned a doctor.
                                                  Is there
  a doctor at the facility?
10
                  There is. It's Dr. Wilkins.
         Α.
11
                  How often is Dr. Wilkins at the
         Q.
12
  facility?
13
                  He works with the APN.
         Α.
                                            The APN is at
14
  the facility a lot.
15
         Q.
                  So is he actually at the facility or
  does he oversee the APN?
17
         Α.
                  He oversees the APN in a
18
  collaborative group.
19
         0.
                  Does the doctor ever actually see
  Kingsway patients face-to-face?
21
         Α.
                   I'm not sure. There may be
  instances.
               I'm not sure.
2.3
                  But not regularly?
         Q.
24
         Α.
                  No.
2.5
                  So the APN, if somebody needs to see
         Q.
```

```
the APN, what would be an example of why?
 2
                  Umm, they would want to see the APN
 3
  for prescriptions.
 4
                  Are these prescriptions related to
         Q.
 5
  recovery from addiction issues?
 6
         Α.
                  Yeah, yes.
 7
                  What type of prescriptions are we
         Q.
8
  talking?
 9
         Α.
                  Umm, I just know psychotropic
10 medications.
11
                  So do they have individual therapy
         Q.
12
  sessions, these people who are receiving partial
13
  care at Kingsway?
14
                  I believe so, yes.
         Α.
15
         Q.
                  So is that on a daily -- they are
  there five days a week. Is that every single day
17
  that they are there they receive?
18
         Α.
                  No.
19
         Q.
                  Okay. How many days a week do they
20
  receive individual one-on-one therapy session?
21
         Α.
                  Once.
22
         Q.
                  Okay. Once a week. How long is that
23
  supposed to last?
24
         Α.
                  45 minutes.
2.5
         Q.
                  Any other services that patients
```

```
receiving partial care get at Kingsway?
 1
 2
         Α.
                   Not to my knowledge.
 3
                   So group, nursing and individual,
         Q.
 4
   correct?
             Yes?
 5
         Α.
                   Yes.
 6
                   What about case management services,
         0.
 7
  are those something that Kingsway offers?
 8
         Α.
                   Yes.
 9
         0.
                   What does that mean when I say case
  management services?
11
                   So if a client has to -- like, has
         Α.
12 like a legal issue or something, the case manager
13
  will help them.
14
                   What other types of issues could the
         0.
  case manager help a patient with?
16
                   Setting up appointments.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                   With?
18
                   The various -- anything that's going
         Α.
19
  on in their life.
20
                   How often are partial care patients
         Q.
   typically seeing case management employees?
22
         Α.
                   I don't know.
23
                   There's not like a standard.
         Q.
                                                   Is it
24
  more as needed?
         Α.
25
                  Yes.
```

```
1
        Q.
                  And --
2
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      I'm going to jump
3
  in and ask a quick question before we get too far
  from where my question was. I'm just trying to
  follow your testimony with respect to the nursing
6
  services.
            I thought I heard you say the clients are
7
  coming to the nurses when they need prescriptions?
  Is that correct?
9
                  THE WITNESS: Well, the APNs
10
  prescribe medications, so they'll have a scheduled
11 meeting with them.
12
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      But they are
  meeting with them -- are the patients going to the
13
14 nurse and saying I need prescriptions?
15
                  THE WITNESS:
                                No.
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Are there
17
  appointments with the nurses for them to assess
18
  whether they actually need prescriptions?
19
  want to clarify that.
20
                  THE WITNESS: They schedule when they
  are going to see the APN.
22
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Okay.
                                              Thank you.
23 BY MS. CIALINO:
24
                  Okay, now for IOP or intensive
  outpatient, how does that compare to partial care?
```

1	How many days a	week are the clients at Kingsway?
2	Α.	It's usually three days a week, three
3	hours a day.	
4	Q.	And do they receive individual
5	therapy?	
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Once a week still?
8	А.	Yes.
9	Q.	45 minutes?
10	Α.	Yep.
11	Q.	And then group therapy?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	And that's every day?
14	Α.	Usually three times a week.
15	Q.	Every day that they are there?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Then they receive case management
18	services?	
19	Α.	I believe so.
20	Q.	Anything else that IOP receives or
21	any difference	than partial care other than the
22	amount of time	that the patient is at the facility?
23	Α.	It's more about the amount of time.
24	Q.	Now what about outpatient?
25	А.	Outpatient is one hour a day group.

```
1
                  Is that a set number of days a week,
         Q.
 2
   or is that just depends on the patient?
 3
                  Depends on the patient.
         Α.
 4
         0.
                  What about do they receive individual
 5
   therapy sessions?
 6
         Α.
                  Yes.
 7
         0.
                  Case management services?
 8
         Α.
                  Yes.
 9
         0.
                  Does Kingsway offer inpatient
10
  services?
11
         Α.
                  No.
12
         Q.
                  What about detox. Does Kingsway
13
  offer detox?
14
                  No.
         Α.
15
         Q.
                  Why is Kingsway set up to only offer
  outpatient services? Why did you decide to set it
17
  up that way?
18
                  Because that's where recovery begins,
19
  so when you're in a detox or in a residential
20
  treatment facility, it's more of a medical
21
  stabilization, so when you come to an outpatient,
  that's where you're in the outside world so you are
23 feeling stresses of the outside world, and you --
  that's where you start really recovery.
2.5
  T believe.
```

1	Q.	Okay. What insurance does Kingsway
2	accept or what	type of insurance?
3	Α.	Do you mean a private insurance?
4	Q.	Yeah. Do they accept private,
5	Medicaid, Medic	care?
6	Α.	Private.
7	Q.	Is Kingsway in network with any
8	insurance provi	lders?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	Which ones?
11	Α.	Total Care Network and Allied Trades.
12	Q.	How long I'm sorry?
13	Α.	Looking for a third one right now.
14	Q.	How long has Kingsway been in network
15	with those two	companies you mentioned?
16	А.	I'm not sure. It's been a while.
17	I'm not sure.	
18	Q.	Does Kingsway also accept
19	out-of-network	insurance policies?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Does Kingsway accept self-pay
22	clients?	
23	А.	Yes.
24	Q.	How did you make the decision to
25	accept, you kno	ow, specifically private insurance

```
versus, you know, trying to go the Medicaid Medicare
2
  route?
3
                  So for five years I worked in mostly
        Α.
  Medicaid facilities, and the amount of paperwork
5
  that I saw was really, I think, holding back a
  little bit from client care, so I knew private care,
  I think, we can get more, just more time and more
  when we do clinical techniques with the clients, and
9 I was talking to my, again, supervisors and they
10
  said with my background and everything, I'd be good
11 at private care, so that's the way we went, but, you
12
  know, there was no quarantees or anything that it
13
  was going to be successful.
14
                  What about your background made your
         Q.
  prior supervisors suggest that you'd be good at
  private care?
16
17
                  My recovery.
         Α.
18
                  Because of?
         Q.
19
         Α.
                  Because of the way I was, you know,
20
  counseling people.
21
                  Okay. Now is Kingsway licensed by
         Q.
  the State of New Jersey?
2.3
         Α.
                  Yes.
24
                  What -- if you could recall back in,
  you know, 2018, what did you do to obtain that
```

```
licensing?
1
2
                  Its policy and procedures and then
  getting the facility, and then, you know, together
  that got the place licensed.
5
         Q.
                  So you needed to make policies and
  procedures for the treatment center?
                  It was an administrative side and
  then there's the operational side, which is the
  facility.
10
                  Do you remember what type of
  paperwork the state asked for in addition to these
12 policies and procedures?
13
        Α.
                  No.
14
                  Did they ask for any financial
         Q.
15
  documents or information relating to your personal
16 finances?
17
         Α.
                  I don't recall that.
18
                  Do you recall if they asked about any
19 investors, if you had any investors to open a
20 facility?
21
                  I don't know if that's on the
        Α.
               I don't remember.
  paperwork.
2.3
                  Now, from the time you began working
         Q.
24 to get the license to the time you actually received
  it from the state like when you submitted the
```

```
paperwork, how long did it take to actually get that
 2
  license from the state, if you recall?
 3
                  A little under a year and a half.
 4
         0.
                  And do you recall approximately how
 5
  much money you spent, you know, in total, whether
  that includes if you needed to hire lawyers or
 6
  whatever you needed to do to get that license.
  you recall about how much that was, that cost you?
 9
                  Can you repeat that?
         Α.
                                         What are you
  specifically --
10
11
                  Just how much it cost you total to
         Q.
12
  start this facility up to get the licensing, to get
13
  the facility, what kind of start-up costs, including
14
  the paperwork that you need to submit to the state?
15
         Α.
                  To get it going was about 120,000.
16
         Q.
                  Now, how many clients does Kingsway
17
  currently have?
18
                  Umm, 30.
         Α.
19
                  Since 2018, what's the most at a time
         Q.
20
  clients that Kingsway's had?
21
                  Maybe higher 40s.
         Α.
22
         0.
                  Is there like a maximum amount that
23
  Kingsway can have at the time or is at the
24
  discretion of the facility?
2.5
         Α.
                  I'm not sure.
```

```
You'd say high 40s was the most that
1
         Q.
2
  Kingsway had?
 3
                  I believe so.
         Α.
 4
                  Is 30, you know, approximately 30, is
         Q.
 5
  that the average it's been across 2018 to today's
  date?
        Α.
                  No.
                        I think it's been closer to 40
8 maybe, higher 30s.
 9
         Q.
                  Now what does Kingsway do to market
  itself to get clients to come?
11
         Α.
                  The digital marketing.
12
                  What does that mean?
         Q.
13
                  So we do a lot of digital marketing
         Α.
14
  on Google.
              It's called PPC and ASCO campaign.
15
                  What does it consist of? I know you
         Q.
  say on Google. What does it consist of?
17
         Α.
                  Advertising on the website and on
18
  Google.
19
                  Is that like you are getting Kingsway
         Q.
  to come up in search results?
20
21
                  Yes.
         Α.
22
                  Is that simply putting ads out there
         Q.
2.3
  on other websites?
24
         Α.
                  Correct.
2.5
         Q.
                  All of the above. Any other ways
```

```
Kingsway gets clients other than marketing on the
  internet?
 3
         Α.
                  That's one way.
 4
                  What are the other ways?
         Q.
 5
         Α.
                  So we receive clients from inpatient
 6
  facilities.
         0.
                  Okay.
                         What inpatient facilities does
  Kingsway typically receive clients from?
 9
                  All of them.
         Α.
10
                  Every single one?
         Q.
11
                  There's a lot. We'll get clients
         Α.
12
  from different ones, yeah.
13
         0.
                  Is there like ones that you get more
14 clients from?
15
                  Over the span of time, not really.
         Α.
16
                  Name some that you recall receiving
         0.
17
  clients from?
18
                  Malverne, Mirmont and Life Solutions.
         Α.
19
                  Now how does that work?
         0.
  Kingsway have a marketing team?
20
21
                  Admissions team.
         Α.
22
                  So admissions handles the marketing?
         0.
2.3
                  Yeah.
         Α.
24
                  Or do you hire an outside company to
         Q.
2.5
  do marketing?
```

```
They would call into the admissions
1
         Α.
  office and they would -- that's how they would get
  the client, so like an inpatient would call in with
  the client.
 5
                  Does Kingsway work to have
         Q.
  relationships, you know, with inpatient facilities
 6
7
  in order to get, you know, that they have a client
  who needs care, you know, think of Kingsway, is that
  part of the marketing plan?
10
         Α.
                  I mean, I guess that there's a
  relationship there.
11
12
         Q.
                  Who's making this relationship?
13
         Α.
                  The director of admissions.
                  Who's that?
14
         Q.
15
                  Jimmy McDonnell.
         Α.
16
                  McDonnell, you said?
         0.
17
         Α.
                  Um-hmm.
18
                  Who does that individual report to?
         Q.
19
         Α.
                  Rebecca Pera.
20
                  Does Kingsway have relationships
         Q.
  with, you know -- when you say inpatient, are you
  talking detoxes or simply inpatient treatment
2.3
  centers?
24
         Α.
                  Both.
2.5
                  In terms of detoxes, what facilities,
         Q.
```

```
you know, does Kingsway often receive clients from?
1
2
         Α.
                  Well, that was Enlightened Solutions.
3
                  So those you were referring to
         0.
  detoxes -- I don't know if you were referring --
4
5
        Α.
                  They are both.
                  Now, if somebody who's attending
6
         0.
  Kingsway uses drugs again or alcohol again and
  relapses, are they supposed to go back to detox?
9
        Α.
                  That's a clinical decision made by on
10
  a case-by-case basis.
11
                  Okay.
                         So typically, so it's a
         Q.
12
  case-by-case basis. Let's say the clinician at
13
  Kingsway decides that based on their determination
  that the patient needs to go back to detox, how is
14
15
  that handled? Is there referrals made to specific
  detoxes? Is it just hey, you've got to figure out
16
17
  where you're going?
                       How does it work?
18
                  They'll assist the client in getting
         Α.
19
  to a facility.
20
                  So assist the client, would they make
         Q.
  the calls, just explain to me a little bit more
22
  about how those referrals work?
2.3
                  So the admission person would call
         Α.
24
  the client and say that they have three -- they give
  them three different options, you know, to different
```

```
facilities.
1
 2
                  Now who's coming up with the three
  different options for them to go to, who at
  Kingsway?
 4
 5
         Α.
                  The person in the admissions.
 6
                   Somebody in the admissions
         0.
 7
  department?
 8
                  Yes.
         Α.
 9
                  Currently who handles that duty?
         0.
10
                  Jimmy McDonnell.
         Α.
11
                   Is it the director of admissions that
         Q.
12
  does that?
13
         Α.
                  Yes.
14
                  Prior to Jimmy McDonnell, who was the
         Q.
  director of admissions?
15
16
                  Ryan McDonohue.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                  How long has Jimmy been the director?
18
                  Ten, 11 months.
         Α.
19
                  Now, do you know, when you were
         Q.
20
  talking about three facilities, you know, detoxes,
21 let's say, that the person's being referred to, how
  does Jimmy come up with that list of three
23 facilities?
24
         Α.
                   I'm not sure.
2.5
         Q.
                  Okay. Is it written down anywhere in
```

```
your electronic medical records in the KIPU system
  as to where that client is offered, you know,
  options as to go back to detox?
4
                  I'm not sure.
        Α.
5
         0.
                  Now, does Kingsway give scholarships
  to clients?
6
                  I would say that the scholarship, if
         Α.
  there's -- it's more of a non-pay extension is what
  we offer. So if somebody's insurance terms out,
  the -- we wouldn't abandon the client. We would
10
11
  give them a non-pay extension. So the staff can
12
  find different opportunities or, you know,
13 different --
14
                  Let's take right now. How many
         Q.
  people are on -- I'm going to refer to it on
  scholarship, if that's okay, or non-pay. How many
16
17
  people at Kingsway are non-pay?
18
                  I don't know.
         Α.
19
                  Who makes the determination if the
         0.
20
  client or a patient is going to be a non-pay status?
21
                  Rebecca.
        Α.
22
         0.
                  That's not run by you?
2.3
        Α.
                  No.
24
                  And you're not made aware of how many
         Q.
  clients at a time at your own facility are paying or
```

```
insurance is paying versus are a non-pay?
1
 2
         Α.
                  No.
 3
         0.
                  How many employees does Kingsway
  currently have?
 4
 5
                  I would say about 30.
 6
                  Has that number stayed approximately
         0.
7
  the same over that course, you know, once you guys
  got on your feet in 2019 through today?
 9
         Α.
                  Yeah, it's grown a little bit.
10
                  Now, Kingsway has a facility in
         Q.
  Mullica Hill, correct, but they also have offices in
  another location, administrative offices?
12
13
         Α.
                  Yes.
14
                  Now, when you personally go in to
         Q.
  work at Kingsway, are you going to the treatment
  center location or the administrative offices?
16
17
         Α.
                  The administrative office.
18
                  When did those administrative offices
         Q.
19
  open?
20
                  2019.
         Α.
21
                  Around 2019 sometime?
         0.
22
                  I think so. I'm not sure.
         Α.
2.3
                  How often do you go to the actual
         Q.
24
  facility in Mullica Hill?
2.5
                  Not often.
         Α.
```

```
1
                  When you say not often, like once a
         Q.
 2
  month?
 3
         Α.
                  I haven't been there in months.
 4
                  Has that always been the case, or is
         Q.
 5
  there a time when you went to that facility in
  Mullica Hill more often?
 7
         Α.
                  Maybe more, but once a month before
 8
  that.
 9
                  As CEO, do you hold weekly or monthly
         Q.
  staff meetings?
10
11
                  The director of operations holds the
         Α.
12
  staff meetings. There's an all-staff meeting.
13
  There's clinical meetings.
14
                  Are you present at any of those?
         Q.
15
                  I was going to directors meetings,
         Α.
  but I don't do that anymore.
17
         Q.
                  Why not?
18
                  I like them to work it all out.
         Α.
  like them to be empowered.
20
                  So you're not present at all staff or
         Q.
  director meetings?
22
         Α.
                  No.
2.3
                  And at any point did you used to be
         Q.
24
  present at those meetings?
2.5
         Α.
                  I would stop in once in a while.
```

```
1
                  Okay, so you've never ran the
        Q.
2
  meetings?
3
        Α.
                  No.
4
        0.
                  Okay.
                         Before I move on, I want to
5
  see if the commissioners at this point have any
  questions for you?
6
7
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      I just have one
8
  question, back to your comments about private pay
  clients. I think you said that it was recommended
10
  to you that you have a background that would assist
  private pay clients. Can you explain how, what sort
12
  of payment that client has, how that correlates to
13
  your actual background? Can you explain that to me?
14
                  THE WITNESS: Okay, how it correlates
  to my background? Okay, so a lot of the private pay
16
  clients are -- they are not mandated to come in to
17
  treatment, okay? So they don't have a DUI.
18
  don't have drug court or anything like that.
19
  are more apt to accept more of a spiritual and
  evidence-based treatment.
20
21
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Okay.
                                             You had
22 also mentioned the paperwork involved in non-private
23
  pay clients. Is that something that went into the
  decision-making as to whether to accept them as
  clients or not is the amount of paperwork, or can
```

```
you clarify what you meant when you referenced the
  amount of paperwork that was involved?
3
                  THE WITNESS:
                                It was just more of a,
  you could focus more on the care and not as much as
5
  on the paperwork.
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
6
                                      How -- can you
7
  just describe for me a little bit, what was that
  burden like as far as the paperwork?
  something that -- just describe to me what was the
10
  dynamic that would even make you think that
  attending to that paperwork was actually taking away
12
  from client care?
13
                  THE WITNESS:
                                Attending to it was, I
  mean, it was cumbersome. It was like a little bit
14
15 more than we do in the private care, so it was just
16
  taking away, you know.
17
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Could you
18
  describe to me some of the differences between what
19
  the paperwork aspect is like? And just so you know,
20
  one of the purposes of this Commission is also to
21
  recommend regulatory changes potentially, so my
  questions are really to surface just a better
2.3
  understanding of what are some of these differences
24
  that went into your decision-making.
2.5
                  THE WITNESS: You know, maybe -- I'm
```

```
going to say it was, if you really want to get like
  more on the specific end of that, it was more of the
  EMR systems were very cumbersome and when I was
  working in that care, and then if you look into more
5
  of the one that we utilize now that it was, it's
6
  easier to navigate.
7
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Okay.
                                              And the
8
  only other question I had was you described earlier
  on in your testimony the reporting requirements to
10
  you as CEO. The person that oversaw operations,
  first of all, I'm sorry, let me ask, did you have a
12
  CFO?
        Did you have any sort of chief financial
13
  officer?
14
                  THE WITNESS:
                                I have a controller.
15
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      What is that
  person's reporting relationship to you?
17
                  THE WITNESS:
                               She reports to Rebecca.
18
  She reports to the director of operations.
19
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: And the director
  of operations reports to you.
20
21
                               Correct.
                  THE WITNESS:
22
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       Thank you.
2.3
                  MS. CIALINO: Any additional
24
  questions?
  BY MS. CIALINO:
```

```
1
                  Now, I want to switch gears here a
        Q.
2
  little bit.
               Between 2018 and 2021, in terms of the
  amount of money that Kingsway Recovery brought in
  from insurance companies, approximately $15 million,
  does that sound correct?
                  Correct, yeah.
6
        Α.
7
                  And who were the -- actually, during
        0.
8
  that time, the two biggest health insurance
  companies paying Kingsway were Horizon Blue Cross
  Blue Shield at approximately 8.7 million and Aetna
10
  with approximately 2 million. Does that sound
12
  correct?
13
                  I believe so.
        Α.
14
                  Now, in terms of the insurance
        Q.
  companies, do different health insurance companies
16
  or maybe even within the health insurance companies,
17
  different health insurance policies pay up different
18
  amounts for the same treatment?
19
                  To my knowledge, they all pay
  different amounts.
20
21
                  Was there any -- if you know, were
  there certain insurance policies or insurance
23
  companies that paid more for additional treatments
24
  such as PHP or IOP in New Jersey?
2.5
        Α.
                  I don't know.
```

```
You don't know which ones paid out
1
         0.
 2
   the most per client?
 3
         Α.
                  For?
 4
                  Let's just say for PHP?
         0.
 5
                   I don't know.
         Α.
 6
                  Okay. Do you know if there's certain
         0.
7
  policies -- you don't know if there's certain
  policies even within Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield
  that paid out the most?
10
                   I'm trying to think. I can't recall.
         Α.
11
         Q.
                  Okay. Now, do you handle the
12
  finances and banking on behalf of Kingsway Recovery?
13
                   I don't know what you mean by that.
         Α.
14
                  Well, let's start, what bank
         Q.
  institutions does Kingsway Recovery use?
                  Columbia and PNC.
16
         Α.
17
         Q.
                  Who has signatory authority on
18
  Kingsway's accounts at Columbia Bank?
19
         Α.
                  Me.
20
         Q.
                  Anybody else?
21
                   I believe our controller has some
         Α.
22
   type of signature.
2.3
                  Who's the controller?
         Q.
24
         Α.
                   Stacy Troup.
2.5
         Q.
                  T-r-u-e?
```

```
1
         Α.
                   T-r-o-u-p.
 2
         0.
                   Troup, okay.
 3
         Α.
                   Yeah.
 4
                   How long has Stacy Troup been the
         0.
 5
   controller at Kingsway?
 6
         Α.
                   I believe it's about a year.
 7
         0.
                   Now, prior to Stacy, was there
  somebody else who acted as the controller at
 8
  Kingsway?
10
         Α.
                   We had the bookkeepers.
11
                   But no controller?
         0.
12
         Α.
                   No.
13
                   Prior to Stacy then who were the
         Q.
14
  bookkeepers?
15
         Α.
                   It was Alloy Silverstein.
16
                   And who else?
         Q.
17
         Α.
                   That's it.
18
                   So how long was Silverstein a
         Q.
19
  bookkeeper at Kingsway?
20
         Α.
                   Since the facility began.
21
                   MR. BROOKS:
                                 First part of
22
  Silverstein?
23
         Α.
                   Alloy.
24
                   Alloy Silverstein. So they were an
25
  outside vendor who did the bookkeeping?
```

1	А.	Yes.
2	Q.	Now, in terms of that PNC account or
3	accounts that F	Kingsway has, does anyone else have
4	signatory autho	ority besides you on that account?
5	А.	I believe not.
6	Q.	Who handles the check deposits
7	currently on be	ehalf of Kingsway Recovery?
8	А.	Stacy the controller.
9	Q.	For that approximate year she's work
10	at Kingsway, ha	as she always handled the check
11	deposits?	
12	А.	Yes.
13	Q.	How does that work? Do checks that
14	Kingsway receiv	ves, do they come directly to her or
15	do they go some	ewhere else and then she retrieves
16	them? How does	s that work?
17	А.	I'm getting a little confused.
18	Q.	Is she at the facility or at the
19	administrative	offices?
20	А.	Yes.
21	Q.	So when checks come in, they come to
22	Kingsway Recove	ery, they go directly to her?
23	А.	Can I ask you a question?
24	Q.	Umm
25	А.	You are confusing me with this. I

```
think we're --
1
2
                  Can you explain?
3
        Α.
                  Yes. You mean check -- what do you
  mean by checks?
5
         Q.
                  Checks from insurance companies,
  checks from patients, check like those?
7
                  Oh, any check that would come into
  the, come into the facility and then it would be
  Rebecca would handle it from there. Stacy or
  Rebecca would handle it with the billing.
11
                  Okay.
                         What do you mean, "handle it
         Q.
  with the billing"?
12
                  They would bring the check to make
13
         Α.
14
  sure that they had a copy of the check, and then
15
  Stacy would take the check to the bank.
16
                         Now, prior to Stacy working as
         Q.
                  Okay.
17
  a controller, who handled the depositing checks that
18
  Kingsway received into their bank accounts?
19
        Α.
                  Me.
20
                  Now, why did you end up hiring a
         Q.
  controller approximately a year ago?
22
         Α.
                  Company was growing.
2.3
                  Did you feel it was something you
         Q.
24
  couldn't handle or you didn't have time to handle
2.5
  or --
```

```
It was just more of a growth thing.
1
         Α.
 2
                  Okay.
                          So the company was growing and
         Q.
 3
  what, you felt you needed a controller?
 4
                  Yeah, I felt like it was time to get
         Α.
 5
  a controller, and it helped more with the
  bookkeepers and everything, them combined I thought
7
  was nice.
 8
                  Did anybody advise you that you
         Q.
  should have a controller or did you make that
10
  decision on your own?
11
         Α.
                  Made it on my own.
12
         Q.
                  Now, in terms of withdrawals from
13
  Kingsway's bank account, are there -- who would
  handle the withdrawal of money from Kingsway's bank
15 account?
                  A withdrawal?
16
         Α.
                                  Was me.
17
                  You, okay. Does anyone else outside
         Q.
18
  of you or Stacy have access to Kingsway's bank
19
  accounts?
20
         Α.
                  No.
21
                  Now, in terms of transfers of money
         0.
  from Kingsway's bank accounts to your personal
23
  account or another account, you know, in your name,
24
  who handles those?
2.5
         Α.
                  Me.
```

```
1
         Q.
                   Okay.
                          Have you always handled those
 2
  since Kingsway's been open?
 3
         Α.
                   Yes.
 4
                   Does your wife ever transfer money
         0.
5
  from Kingsway's bank accounts to a joint account in
  your name, your name and her name, sorry?
 6
 7
         Α.
                   No.
 8
         0.
                   Does Kingsway have any debit cards?
 9
         Α.
                   No.
10
         0.
                   Has Kingsway ever had any debit
  cards?
11
12
         Α.
                   No.
13
                   Does Kingsway have any credit cards?
         Q.
14
         Α.
                   Yes.
15
                   Who has access to Kingsway's credit
         Q.
16
  cards?
17
         Α.
                   I'm not sure.
                                   That would be a
18
  question for director of operations.
19
                   What are Kingsway's credit cards used
         Q.
20
  for?
21
         Α.
                   Operational stuff at Kingsway.
22
         0.
                   Like when you say operational stuff,
23
  what are we talking about?
24
         Α.
                   Paper, the desks, computers.
2.5
         Q.
                   So supplies?
```

1	Α.	Supplies.
2	Q.	Do you review all purchases that are
3	made on the Ki	ngsway credit cards?
4	Α.	No.
5	Q.	Who would review that?
6	Α.	Stacy.
7	Q.	Prior to Stacy getting there a year
8	ago, who would	you at that time, you know, have
9	review the cred	dit card transactions?
10	Α.	Well, Alloy Silverstein would do that
11	too.	
12	Q.	How would Alloy Silverstein what
13	would they do	to review them?
14	Α.	They would go over, I guess, the
15	QuickBooks or	through the QuickBooks. They would
16	review what car	me in.
17	Q.	And what would they do with that
18	information, wo	ould they present it to you?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	So what would they say, like X amount
21	of money was s	pent on this or how did it go?
22	Α.	Yeah, like that. They would call.
23	Q.	Sorry?
24	Α.	Yeah, they would call.
25	Q.	How often would you speak to Alloy

```
Silverstein on the phone?
1
2
                  Once every few months.
3
                  And what -- okay. Now, was there any
         Q.
  internal policies at Kingsway in terms of, you know,
  what documentation needs to be kept or what needs to
  be done prior to somebody making a purchase on
7
  behalf of Kingsway through credit cards?
8
        Α.
                  I'm not sure. Again, that was prior
  to the director of operations.
10
                  Now has the director of operations
         0.
  ever reported to you how much money is being spent
12
  on these credit cards or any issues with anything
13
  related to these credit cards?
14
         Α.
                  No.
15
         Q.
                  Do you recall ever having a
  discussion with the director of operations about
17
  Kingsway's credit cards?
18
         Α.
                  No.
19
         Q.
                  Now, so in terms of bookkeepers,
20
  currently does the controller handle the bookkeeping
21
  for Kingsway?
22
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.3
                  So what does Stacy do in terms of
         Q.
24
  bookkeeping on Kingsway's behalf?
2.5
                  She does a lot of like accounts
         Α.
```

```
1
  payable.
 2
                  What else?
 3
         Α.
                   She handles the QuickBooks.
 4
                  Okay. What type of information is
         0.
5
  put into QuickBooks?
 6
                  Umm, I'm not sure.
         Α.
 7
                   So she currently -- Stacy currently
         Q.
  makes entries into QuickBooks on behalf of Kingsway?
 9
                  Yeah.
         Α.
10
                   So prior to Stacy, who made the
         0.
  entries into QuickBooks on behalf of Kingsway?
12
                  Alloy Silverstein.
         Α.
13
                   Where did Alloy Silverstein get the
         0.
14
  information to input into QuickBooks?
15
                   From the bank accounts.
         Α.
16
                  Say it again?
         0.
17
         Α.
                  From the accounts.
18
                  From the accounts themselves?
         Q.
19
                  Yeah.
         Α.
20
                   So how did that work?
                                           Would you
         Q.
  print out the account information, hand it over to
22 Alloy Silverstein?
2.3
                   I think it was connected.
         Α.
24
                   So they could view the Kingsway's
2.5
  bank records?
```

```
1
                  Yeah, it was -- yeah, they connected.
         Α.
 2
                   So bank account in QuickBooks are
         Q.
 3
  connected is what you're saying?
 4
                  Yes.
         Α.
 5
                  The information from the bank records
         0.
  would go automatically into Kingsway's QuickBooks?
 6
 7
                  Correct, I believe so.
         Α.
 8
         0.
                  Did you ever review, since Stacy has
  been controller, have you reviewed Kingsway's
  QuickBooks information?
10
11
         Α.
                  No.
12
         Q.
                  Prior to Stacy when Alloy Silverstein
13
  were the bookkeepers, did you ever review the
14
  QuickBooks?
15
                  No, I never reviewed them.
         Α.
16
         Q.
                  Did anybody at Kingsway, especially
17
  when Alloy Silverstein was the outside entity was a
18
  bookkeeper, did anybody from Kingsway ever review
  the QuickBooks?
19
20
         Α.
                  No.
21
                  Why not?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  Alloy Silverstein would call me if
2.3
  there was an issue.
24
                  Okay, what type of issues would they
2.5
  call you about?
```

```
They would just say hey, you know,
1
         Α.
 2
  you're spending this for this, what is, you know,
  the breakdown different things that would be.
 4
                  So would Alloy Silverstein provide
         Q.
 5
  you to an end of the year, you know, snapshot of
  Kingsway's finances or their, I guess, accounts
 7
  payable, account receivable, all that?
 8
         Α.
                  No.
                       I would ordinarily get that.
 9
         0.
                  You wouldn't really get it or --
10
                  I can't remember. I might have
         Α.
11
  gotten something from them, but I don't remember.
12
                  Was there anybody at that time from
13
  Kingsway who was an actual employee of Kingsway who
14
  would review the accounts payable/accounts
15
  receivable on a yearly basis?
16
         Α.
                  No.
17
         Q.
                  What about profit and loss statements
  and those other type of records, balance sheets?
18
19
         Α.
                  I would look at the profit and loss.
20
                  So you would look at profit and loss.
         Q.
21
  What else would you look at?
22
                  That was about it.
         Α.
2.3
                  What were you looking for when you
         Q.
24
  were looking at the profit and loss statements?
2.5
                  If we were a viable business.
         Α.
```

```
How often would you look at the
 1
         0.
 2
  profit and loss statements of Kingsway?
 3
         Α.
                  Maybe once a month.
 4
                  Who provided you those profit and
         0.
 5
   loss statements?
 6
                  I have -- so I would -- I would have
         Α.
 7
  the profit and loss statement.
 8
         0.
                  Where would you get that information
  from?
10
                  I had like a little profit and loss
         Α.
11
  thing.
12
                  Okay, so where would you get the
13 information that you're inputting into the profit
14
  and loss sheets?
15
         Α.
                  It's an app.
16
                  An app through what?
         Q.
17
         Α.
                  Through I have like a little
18
  self-employed app that shows profit and loss.
                                                     Ι
  have it connected to the bank.
19
20
                  Were you reviewing the bank records
         Q.
  to get that -- I'm trying to understand where you
22
  got the information to input into the --
23
                  They come in electronically.
         Α.
24
         Q.
                  Through QuickBooks or through bank
25
  statements?
```

		`
1	73	
1	Α.	Through the app.
2	Q.	Where
3	Α.	I have a separate app.
4	Q.	What app is that?
5	Α.	It's called a self-employed app.
6	Q.	That's on your phone?
7	Α.	Yeah.
8	Q.	So where is the self-employed app
9	pulling that in	nformation from?
10	Α.	The banks.
11	Q.	Okay. So that app is connected to
12	your bank state	ements too?
13	Α.	Yeah.
14	Q.	That's done separate from what the
15	bookkeepers were doing?	
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Now, do you still do that with the
18	controller Stac	cy?
19	Α.	Do what?
20	Q.	Do that profit and loss app?
21	Α.	With Stacy?
22	Q.	No, like with Stacy being the
23	controller, do	you still use that profit and loss
24	app or does she	e handle that?
25	А.	No, she's been she handles that

```
1
  more now.
 2
                   So you don't use that app you
  referred to anymore?
 4
                  No.
         Α.
 5
         Q.
                  Now, how often does Stacy report to
  you in terms of the overall, you know, state of, I
 6
7
  quess, Kingsway's finance -- internal finances?
 8
                   She'll report to Rebecca.
 9
         0.
                   So how often does Rebecca report to
  you regarding the overall state of Kingsway's
11
  finances?
12
         Α.
                  Once every couple weeks.
13
                   Is that done in person or on the
         0.
14
  phone?
15
                  On the phone.
         Α.
16
         Q.
                  Are any documents submitted to you
17
  from the director?
18
         Α.
                   No.
19
                  Now, in terms of your personal
         Q.
  finances in banking, do you handle that individually
20
21
  or do you have somebody else that handles that on
22
  your behalf?
2.3
         Α.
                  From my personal banking?
24
         0.
                  Yes.
2.5
         Α.
                  Yeah, I handle it.
```

1	Q.	You handle it?	
2	А.	Yeah.	
3	Q.	Actually, I just want to jump back.	
4	Who is Janine E	Bookkeepers?	
5	А.	That's Alloy Silverstein.	
6	Q.	Is that their company name or is that	
7	the Janine was	the woman who was doing it for Alloy	
8	Silverstein?		
9	А.	I believe it was JBL and then they	
10	changed into Al	lloy Silverstein.	
11	Q.	Who at Alloy Silverstein did you work	
12	with?		
13	А.	Who do you mean, who did I work with?	
14	Q.	I assume since that's a company, I	
15	assume there wa	as somebody at that company or	
16	multiple people at that company that you work		
17	directly with?		
18	А.	I don't recall who the person was.	
19	Q.	Now how much did you pay Alloy	
20	Silverstein?		
21	А.	I guess it was, it was three or four	
22	thousand.		
23	Q.	A year?	
24	А.	No, I think it was I don't recall.	
25	I don't want to	o give you a wrong answer.	

```
Were they paid out of Kingsway's bank
1
         Q.
2
  account?
3
        Α.
                  Yeah, I believe they would submit a
  bill or -- I think, might have been paid by a credit
5
  card. I think they were paid by the credit card.
6
                  What company was the credit card
         0.
7
  through?
8
                  Capital One.
9
         0.
                  So you believe it was paid through a
  Capital One credit card?
11
         Α.
                  I think so, yeah.
12
                  MS. CIALINO: At this point, let's
13
  take a quick five-minute break?
                                     Does that work?
  And then we'll reconvene. Off the record.
15
                  (A brief recess is taken.)
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       We are back on
17
  the record.
                Ms. Cialino?
18
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                 Thank you, chair.
19
         Q.
                  Mr. DeSimone, I think I left off --
20
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Counsel, let me
  just update the witness as well. We thought we'd go
  at least another hour and just see where we are at
23
  that point and make a decision of whether we need to
  break for lunch or whether we are still within time
2.5
  to wrap up. Okay?
```

```
1
                  MR. BROOKS:
                                Thank you.
 2
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Thank you,
 3
  counsel.
 4
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                 Thank you, chair.
5
  BY MS. CIALINO:
 6
                  I think where I left off is about
  your personal finances in banking, and you said that
  you do handle those; is that correct?
 9
         Α.
                  Yes.
10
                  Is there anybody else besides you who
  has access to your personal bank accounts?
12
         Α.
                  No.
13
                  Now, in terms of your wife, Michelle
14
  DeSimone, do you handle her finances and banking?
15
         Α.
                  No.
                  So the two of you have a joint
16
         Q.
17
  account; is that correct?
18
         Α.
                  Correct.
19
                  Who, I guess, handles the finances on
         Q.
20
  behalf of the joint account that you have?
  just you or both of you?
21
22
         Α.
                  Me.
2.3
         0.
                  So she handles her own personal
24 account?
2.5
                  Yeah.
         Α.
```

1	Q.	And her company's accounts?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	Now, who is your personal accountant?
4	Α.	Joseph Kornicki, but I want to expand
5	on that a litt.	le bit. So Joseph Kornicki is pulling
6	back his opera	tion a little bit, so he has referred
7	us to the TAG	Group, and coincidentally, it was
8	Duane Morris'	accounting group, so they are both our
9	accountants ri	ght now.
10	Q.	So Joseph Kornicki, how long has he
11	been your pers	onal accountant?
12	Α.	I would say about five years.
13	Q.	And you said he's pulling back his
14	operation, I t	hink was your words. What do you mean
15	by that?	
16	Α.	He's downsizing.
17	Q.	So he referred you to what?
18	Α.	The TAG Group.
19	Q.	TAG?
20	Α.	T-a-g.
21	Q.	And you said that's under Duane
22	Morris?	
23	Α.	Yes.
24		MR. BROOKS: It's a tax accounting
25	group.	

```
1
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                 Okay.
 2
                  Do you use Duane Morris in addition
 3
  for the -- well, I guess moving on to them for your
  accounting and attorneys, anything else you use
  Duane Morris for?
                  Yes, we -- for being my attorneys
 6
         Α.
 7
  here.
8
                  Anything outside that, besides
         Q.
  accounting and lawyers?
10
                  We're using them for the South Jersey
         Α.
  Treatment Management Company, so they are providing
12
  that structure for us.
13
                  Kind of as an advisor, would you say?
         0.
14
         Α.
                  Yes.
                  Now, I want to talk about in terms of
15
         Q.
  Joseph Kornicki, so he's still working as your
17
  accountant, correct?
18
         Α.
                  Correct.
19
                  What services does he provide to you
         Q.
20
  personally?
21
         Α.
                  Accounting services.
22
         0.
                  By that, what do you mean?
                                                Does he
23
  just do your taxes once a year?
24
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.5
                  Does he do anything else besides your
         Q.
```

```
1
  taxes once a year?
 2
         Α.
                  He handles -- he's been handling
 3
  business accounting.
 4
                  So he does your personal once a year
         Q.
 5
  taxes and then he's also Kingsway's accountant?
                  Correct.
 6
         Α.
 7
                  How long has he been Kingsway's
         0.
  accountant?
 8
 9
         Α.
                  Since the beginning.
10
                  So on behalf of Kingsway, what
         Q.
  services does he provide?
11
12
         Α.
                  Doing the business accounting for
13
  Kingsway.
14
                  So the business accounting, what
         Q.
15
  falls under that as in taxes?
16
         Α.
                  Taxes.
17
         Q.
                  Outside of doing the taxes, does he
  do any other, you know, bookkeeping work, anything
18
19
  else?
20
                  He will speak to the controller or he
         Α.
  will speak to Alloy Silverstein.
22
                  What was Kornicki to speak to --
         0.
23 let's start with the controller Stacy. What does he
24
  speak to her about?
2.5
         Α.
                  I'm not sure.
```

1	Q.	How do you know they speak?	
2	А.	They Kornicki told me he was	
3	speaking to Sta	acy.	
4	Q.	Did he tell you what he was speaking	
5	with Stacy abou	ıt?	
6	А.	I guess it was tax, the taxes, the	
7	QuickBooks.		
8	Q.	The Quick Books, okay. Does Joseph	
9	Kornicki have a	access to your QuickBooks sorry, to	
10	Kingsway's QuickBooks?		
11	А.	Yes.	
12	Q.	What does he what does that	
13	entail, his acc	cess to Kingsway's QuickBooks? Does	
14	he just use it	for filling out the tax returns or	
15	does he do anyt	thing else with it?	
16	А.	I believe it's for the tax returns.	
17	Q.	Okay. Now, in terms of Joseph	
18	Kornicki speak:	ing to Alloy Silverstein, what will he	
19	speak to them a	about?	
20	А.	QuickBooks.	
21	Q.	In preparation for filing Kingsway's	
22	tax returns or	something else?	
23	А.	Yeah, for filing the tax returns.	
24	Q.	Now, in terms of your communication	
25	with Joseph Ko	nicki in terms of him being your	

```
personal accountant, how often do you communicate
1
2
  with him?
3
        Α.
                  I was communicating with him, I would
  say, on a monthly basis, but now I haven't because
4
5
  communicate with the tax accounting group.
                  Currently, how often are you
6
7
  communicating with the tax accounting group?
8
                  Once -- once every couple weeks.
9
         0.
                  Now, when you used to communicate
  with Joseph Kornicki on, let's say, approximately a
11 monthly basis, what would you talk to him about?
12
                  It was more preparation of taxes and,
         Α.
13
  you know, what was coming up.
14
                  So would he advise you -- did he
         Q.
  provide you any advice, you know, on anything
  outside of, you know, filing your tax returns, or
16
17
  was it always about those tax returns?
18
         Α.
                  It was more about the tax returns,
  yeah.
19
20
                  Now, how much, for your personal
         Q.
  accounting, how much did you pay Joseph Kornicki?
  Was it a yearly amount? A monthly amount?
2.3
                  I believe monthly is what his bill
         Α.
24
  was.
2.5
                  Do you recall how much it was a month
        Q.
```

```
for his services?
 1
 2
         Α.
                   I believe it's 1,250.
 3
         0.
                   That was for your personal
 4
  accounting?
 5
                   I believe it was for both.
         Α.
 6
                   1,250 for Kingsway and for yourself.
         0.
 7
  What account did you pay him out of, if you recall?
                   I don't recall.
 8
         Α.
 9
                   Was he also your wife's accountant?
         0.
10
                   Yes.
         Α.
11
                   So the 1,250 a month was for
         Q.
12
  accounting for you, accounting for her and
13
  accounting for Kingsway?
14
         Α.
                   Um-hmm.
15
                   Yes?
         0.
16
                   Yes.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                   What about accounting for Graceway,
18
  do you know if he did accounting on Graceway's
19
  behalf?
20
                   I don't know.
         Α.
21
                   You don't know?
         0.
22
                   I believe so, I believe so.
         Α.
23
         Q.
                   Did you have any written contract or
  agreement with Joseph Kornicki?
25
                   I don't recall.
         Α.
```

```
Now, in terms of your -- Kingsway's
1
         Q.
 2
  account and then your personal accounts, who handled
  the transfers of money from Kingsway's account to
  your personal accounts?
 5
         Α.
                  Me.
 6
         0.
                  Now, every time you made a transfer
 7
  of money, would you speak to anybody, you know,
  prior to doing so?
 9
                  I just spoke to Joe and we talked
         Α.
10
  about that I was going to transfer money.
11
                  So every time you transferred money,
         Q.
12
  you would speak to Joseph Kornicki first?
13
                  Not every time, no.
14
                  So like that once a month, when you
         Q.
  spoke to him once a month, you would talk about the
16
  transfers you were going to make?
17
                  Yeah, when I spoke to him like -- let
         Α.
18
  me -- like when I said am I okay to transfer money,
19
  he was like yeah, you can do your disbursements.
20
  That's what he would tell me.
21
         0.
                  That was the once-a-month type
22
  conversation?
2.3
                  Yeah.
         Α.
24
                  What would you be asking -- why would
  you be running it by him?
```

```
I -- because I wanted to make sure
1
         Α.
2
  that, you know, he knew that I was transferring
  money from the business to personal.
4
                  Okay. You wanted to make sure he
        0.
5
  knew why?
                  Because he's my accountant.
6
        Α.
7
                  So you just thought it was something
         0.
  that he should be aware of?
8
9
        Α.
                  Yes.
10
                  Would he ever tell you no, it's not
         0.
11
  okay to transfer money?
12
        Α.
                  No.
13
                  So normally you ran by him what your
14
  plans were and he would say fine?
15
        Α.
                  Yes.
16
                  Would you go into detail, you know,
17
  or was it a more general conversation? Like, for
18
  example, would you say, you know, I want to make
  five transfers on this day to X account, two more to
20 Y account, or was it just like I've got a lot of
  money in the Kingsway accounts, I want to move it to
  personal accounts? I'm trying to get a sense of
23 your conversations.
24
        Α.
                  No, it wasn't as specific, it wasn't
25
  specific.
```

```
1
                   Did you file personal tax returns in
         Q.
2
   the last five years?
 3
         Α.
                   Yes.
 4
                   What years were they filed?
         Q.
 5
         Α.
                   In the last five years?
 6
                        Starting in 2018, did you file
         0.
                   Yes.
  in 2018?
7
8
                   Yes.
         Α.
 9
         0.
                   Did you file in 2019?
10
         Α.
                   Yes.
11
                   Did you file in 2020?
         Q.
12
         Α.
                   Yes.
13
                   What about year 2021?
         Q.
14
         Α.
                   Yes, I believe so.
15
         Q.
                   Were any of these tax returns, 2018,
  2019, 2020 or 2021, at any point were any of them
17
  amended?
18
                   I don't believe so.
         Α.
19
         Q.
                   Now, prior to submitting these tax
20
  returns, did you review them?
21
                   Not really, no.
         Α.
22
         0.
                   Did you sign them?
23
         Α.
                   Yes.
24
                   But you didn't -- you said not really
         Q.
  no, you didn't review them at all or a little bit?
```

1	А.	Well, Joe would come up and say here
2	it is. Here's	where you have to sign. I would look
3	at them and I v	would, you know, I would sign them.
4	Q.	So you would review them?
5	А.	I would review them briefly.
6	Q.	Then you would sign that they are
7	true and correc	ct?
8	Α.	Um-hmm, yes.
9	Q.	What information would you give
10	Joseph Kornick	i prior to filing your personal tax
11	returns?	
12	Α.	Anything that I've had that came in
13	through the mai	il I would have a packet form and I'd
14	give it to him.	•
15	Q.	Like what? What would come in
16	through the mai	il?
17	Α.	Anything like my W-2 or anything like
18	that.	
19	Q.	Do you remember any of the forms
20	other than you:	C W−2?
21	Α.	Not really, no.
22	Q.	Did you give him your bank
23	statements?	
24	Α.	I'm not sure. I might have.
25	Q.	Did you use QuickBooks for your own

```
personal banking?
1
 2
         Α.
                   No.
                        It was -- no.
                                         It was -- no.
 3
         0.
                   So no QuickBooks. Are you familiar
  with QuickBooks?
 5
         Α.
                   Not really.
         Q.
                   You've never used it yourself?
 6
 7
         Α.
                   No.
 8
                   Did you file jointly with your wife
         0.
   your tax returns?
10
                   Yes.
         Α.
11
         Q.
                   So with Kingsway Recovery, in terms
12
  of the tax returns filed, so did Kingsway file state
13
  and federal tax returns in 2018?
14
         Α.
                   Yes.
15
                   What about 2019?
         Q.
16
         Α.
                   Yes.
17
         Q.
                   2020?
18
                   Yes.
         Α.
19
                   2021?
         Q.
20
         Α.
                   I believe so, yes.
21
                   At any point were any of those
         Q.
22
  returns amended?
23
         Α.
                   Not to my knowledge.
24
                   Now, prior to filing Kingsway's tax
  returns, did you sign them?
```

		<u> </u>
1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	Did you review them prior to signing
3	them?	
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	Now, in 2021, it would be Joseph
6	Kornicki who pa	repared the tax returns or would it
7	have been the I	Duane Morris
8	Α.	TAG.
9	Q.	Which one?
10	Α.	Duane Morris TAG.
11	Q.	Duane Morris filed them in 2021?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	And prepared them?
14	Α.	Prepared them, yes.
15	Q.	2020 was
16	Α.	Kornicki.
17	Q.	Kornicki, so your personal
18	returns, 2021,	was that Duane Morris?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	And 2020 and prior was Kornicki?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	Now, for Kingsway specifically, what
23	tax returns	sorry, what tax forms do you recall
24	were filed for	2021? What types of forms, Schedule
25	C, 1035, if you	ı know?

1	А.	I don't know.	
2	Q.	Prior to that, 2020, do you know what	
3	tax forms were	filed?	
4	А.	I don't know.	
5	Q.	Now, in terms of communicating with	
6	Joseph Kornicki	on relating to Kingsway	
7	Recovery's acco	ounting, how often would you	
8	communicate with him, still once a month or a		
9	different amount?		
10	А.	I would say once a month.	
11	Q.	What did you communicate with him	
12	about approxima	ately once a month?	
13	А.	Just about the tax account.	
14	Q.	And the transfers or no?	
15	А.	If I thought I should bring it up to	
16	him, but not mu	ich.	
17	Q.	What would make you think you needed	
18	to bring it up	to him, for example?	
19	А.	If I told him how much I was bringing	
20	over to my pers	sonal account.	
21	Q.	Okay.	
22	А.	But that's it.	
23	Q.	What would make you think it was	
24	important, you	know, this time you guys were	
25	speaking to bri	ing up the amount that you were	

```
transferring over?
1
                       Was there anything specific?
 2
         Α.
                  No.
 3
                  Now, did you file payroll tax returns
         Q.
  on behalf of Kingsway Recovery?
 4
 5
         Α.
                  Umm, the -- I know the accountant
  spoke to Stacy about the payroll tax returns and
 6
 7
  director of HR.
                  Do you know if they were filed?
 8
         0.
 9
         Α.
                  I believe so, yes.
10
         Q.
                  Would you have signed those documents
11
  too prior to them being filed?
12
         Α.
                  Payroll?
                             I do not remember signing.
13
                  Now, what documents did you give,
14
  let's start with Joseph Kornicki, in 2020, if you
15
  remember, prior to him filling out Kingsway's tax
16
  returns?
17
         Α.
                  The documents I believe came from the
18
  controller for all of the Kingsway was done -- he
  got all the documents from there.
19
20
                  But in 2020, do you know when those
         Q.
  were filed, the 2020 tax returns?
22
         Α.
                  I'm not sure.
2.3
                  At that point, do you know if you had
         Q.
24
  a controller at Kingsway?
2.5
         Α.
                  Yes, I think I did, yeah.
```

```
1
                  So prior to the controller being
         Q.
  there and providing the documents to the accountant,
 2
  who provided documents to the accountant for billing
  on, let's say, your 2019 Kingsway tax returns?
 5
         Α.
                  We got -- I believe that was me.
  think I gave them everything.
 6
 7
                  Do you remember what you gave them?
         Q.
         Α.
 8
                  No.
 9
         0.
                  In -- for your -- for Kingsway's,
10
  sorry, 2021 tax returns that were filed by the Tag
11
  Group, what documents were given to TAG before they
12
  prepared the income tax returns?
13
                  They got bank statements from us.
         Α.
14
         Q.
                  Anything else that you recall?
15
         Α.
                  Any paperwork that I had from like
16
  the W-2s.
17
                  What about QuickBooks, did they have
         Q.
18
  access to the QuickBooks?
19
         Α.
                  Yes.
20
                  Do you know if Joseph Kornicki, prior
         Q.
  to TAG, if Joseph Kornicki had access to QuickBooks
22
  for Kingsway?
2.3
                  Yes.
         Α.
24
                  Was he like an authorized user or how
2.5
  did that work?
```

```
I believe so.
1
         Α.
 2
                  When you started Kingsway, I think
         Q.
 3
  you had said earlier today that it was about
  $120,000; is that correct?
 4
 5
                  Um-hmm, yes.
 6
                  Where did the money come from to
         0.
 7
  start up Kingsway Recovery?
                  Me and my wife's work.
 8
         Α.
 9
         0.
                  So your savings?
10
         Α.
                  Yes.
11
         Q.
                  Did you take out any loans to start
12
  Kingsway Recovery?
13
         Α.
                  No.
14
         Q.
                  Now, from looking at the bank
  records, Kingsway Recovery's bank records, some
16
  transfers from Kingsway Recovery's bank account to
17
  your own personal bank account were coded as or
18
  listed as, let's say, business loan repayments.
                                                       Are
  you aware of that?
19
20
         Α.
                  Yes.
21
                  Why were they coded or listed as
         Q.
  business loan repayments?
2.3
                   I think that was an unfortunate
         Α.
24
  error. They were clicked wrongly.
2.5
                  Clicked wrongly where?
         Q.
```

```
On, it was a mistake that was made.
1
         Α.
2
  It was a category mistake.
3
                  So, I'm just trying to get a sense of
         Q.
  where you were clicking to make that mistake?
5
         Α.
                  Something was categorized wrong.
6
         0.
                  Right.
                         So who was doing the
7
  categorizing?
                  Was that you?
8
                  I believe so.
         Α.
9
         0.
                  So categorized wrong where?
10
  when you are doing online banking? Was it in
  QuickBooks?
11
                I'm trying to get a sense of where.
12
                  Somehow when, I quess, I went in,
13
  because I don't know QuickBooks too well, when I
14 went in there, I must have categorized the -- a
15 business loan in there, and something must have been
  going into the business loan, so ...
17
                  So why were you using QuickBooks and
         Q.
18
  doing that yourself versus, you know, your
19
  bookkeeper?
20
                  Because I think I did that like as I
         Α.
  brought the bookkeeper on. Like, I think that's
  when I was like -- they -- so when we did that, the
23
  QuickBooks had it in there already, and they fixed
24 lit.
2.5
                  Okay. So you're saying that all the
         Q.
```

```
coding of transfers as business loan repayments were
  done prior to you bringing on the Alloy Silverstein
  bookkeepers?
4
                  Yeah.
                         There was a QuickBooks account
        Α.
  and they took it over.
6
                  So who handled the QuickBooks
7
  inputting prior to Alloy Silverstein?
8
         Α.
                  It was new, like so we got it and
  then handed it off to Alloy Silverstein.
10
         0.
                  Okay.
                         So you were doing the
  QuickBooks inputting for a period of time?
12
                  Yeah, that's when I probably un -- I
13
  checked the wrong box.
14
                  So how long were you doing the
         Q.
  QuickBooks inputting on behalf of Kingsway?
16
                  Very short. It wasn't long at all.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                  Do you remember about how long?
18
  couple months? A couple weeks?
                                     What are we talking
19
  about?
20
                  Maybe couple months.
         Α.
21
                  Now do you recall how many transfers
         0.
  you coded as business loan repayments?
2.3
                  No, I don't.
         Α.
24
                  So once the QuickBooks inputting went
  over to Alloy Silverstein, were -- was that when the
```

```
issue was fixed with the business loan repayments?
1
 2
         Α.
                  Yes.
 3
                  How do you know it was fixed?
         Q.
 4
         Α.
                  Umm, I think they reached out and
 5
   said something to me.
                  Brought up that they saw it?
 6
         Q.
 7
         Α.
                  Yeah.
 8
         0.
                  And at that point it was fixed?
 9
         Α.
                  Yes, I believe so.
10
                   So all the transfers that were listed
         Q.
  in the bank records as business loan repayments,
12
  that was all done by mistake by you?
13
                  Um-hmm, yes.
14
                  And, I mean, the number of transfers
         Q.
  that you did that way, do you have any idea or any
  sense of how many you did?
17
         Α.
                  No, no.
18
                  Did -- would it surprise you if it
         Q.
19
  was over 50?
20
                  Was it?
         Α.
21
                  Would it surprise you if it was over
         Q.
  50 transfers coded as business loan repayments?
2.3
                  No, it wouldn't surprise me.
         Α.
24
                          That was all done in a couple
         0.
                  Okay.
  months' period?
```

```
Yeah, I'm not sure.
1
        Α.
2
                  Okay. Now, in terms of the $15
        Q.
  million of insurance proceeds that Kingsway brought
  in, from that money, did you purchase any
  properties -- I'm sorry, did Kingsway purchase any
  properties?
7
        Α.
                  We purchased the -- are you talking
  about Kingsway or --
9
                  Yeah, out of Kingsway's business
        Q.
  account, banking account, did Kingsway purchase any
10
11 properties?
12
        Α.
                  No, it was -- no.
13
                  Kingsway didn't purchase 124
        0.
14 Bridgeton Pike in Mullica Hill?
15
                  I believe that was purchased out of
        Α.
  my personal account.
17
                  So it was purchased -- your
        Q.
18
  understanding is it was purchased out of your
  personal account, and then how did it work with D-28
19
20 Realty? D-28 Realty became the owner of the
21
  property?
22
                  Yes.
                        So Kingsway was leasing from
23 the owner of the property. I spoke to Joseph
24 Kornicki, and he said that we should open up D28,
  start D28, and then we would, Kingsway would lease
```

```
from D28.
1
 2
                  Okay. Now prior to D28 purchasing
  it, so it was owned by someone who was named Bruce
 4
  Clark?
 5
         Α.
                  Yes.
                  When Bruce Clark owned the location,
 6
         0.
7
  do you recall how much Kingsway was paying in rent?
 8
                  Around 2,000.
         Α.
 9
         0.
                  Okay, per month?
10
         Α.
                  Yes.
11
                  Now after Kingsway or after D28
         Q.
12
  became the owner of the property that at that point
13
  D28 leases it back to Kingsway, correct?
14
                  Right.
         Α.
15
         Q.
                  How much money was Kingsway paying
  D28 in rent payments?
                   I think it was three.
17
         Α.
18
         Q.
                  Okay. Did that number change over at
19
  any point?
20
                  I think so.
         Α.
21
                  To what, to $4,000 a month?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  Yes, yes, that's it.
2.3
                  How did D28 determine the cost of
         Q.
24
  rent of that facility at 124 Bridgeton Pike?
2.5
         Α.
                  There was a lot of upgrades in the
```

```
facility, flooring and stuff like that, so I
  believe, I believe I came up with that with Joe
  Kornicki.
 4
                  So Joe Kornicki, does he have any
         Q.
  experience in property management?
 5
                  I'm not sure.
 6
         Α.
 7
                  But with him you guys came up with 3-
         0.
  or $4,000 a month for a lease to Kingsway, correct?
 8
 9
         Α.
                  Correct.
10
                  Now, what about 1225 North Broad
  Street in West Deptford?
11
                              I believe that's Renewed
12
  Light's location?
13
         Α.
                  Um-hmm.
14
         Q.
                  What account was that property
  purchased out of?
15
16
         Α.
                  My personal account.
17
         Q.
                  Now, the money in your personal bank
  account, do you have any additional source of funds
18
  other than Kingsway Recovery?
19
20
                  No.
         Α.
21
                  So what about in your joint bank
  account with you and your wife, does -- does that
23
  account, the joint account, have any other source of
24
  funds other than Kingsway Recovery?
2.5
         Α.
                  No.
```

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```
1
                  What about your wife's account, do
         Q.
 2
  you know where the source of funds come from for her
  own personal account?
 4
                  Umm, can you repeat that question?
         Α.
 5
         0.
                  So in your wife's personal account,
  Michelle's personal account, where do the source of
 7
  funds, if you know, where do they come from?
 8
         Α.
                  They come from earned income.
 9
         0.
                  From her earned income?
10
         Α.
                  From income, earned income from
11
  our -- from the business, from Kingsway.
12
                  Now, you're sure that Kingsway's
13
  operating account or business account has never
14
  purchased any property?
15
         Α.
                  To my knowledge, no.
16
                  Now, in terms of the sober living
         0.
17
  homes that Graceway operates in Glassboro, do you
  know what funds, what -- excuse me, what account
18
19
  those sober living homes were purchased out of?
20
  Dickinson Road, 312 West High Street, 314 West High
21
  Street, 310 High Street, Unit 1, 310 West High, Unit
  2, do you know what accounts those houses were
  purchased out of?
2.3
24
         Α.
                  Out of Michelle's personal account.
2.5
         Q.
                  Okay.
```

1	Α.	I believe.
2	Q.	You believe? But you're not sure?
3	А.	No, I believe though.
4	Q.	Now, does Kingsway have any source of
5	funds other	than insurance proceeds or self-pay
6	proceeds, I	guess?
7	Α.	No.
8	Q.	Now, in terms of transferring funds,
9	you said you	transfer funds from Kingsway Recovery's
10	account to y	our personal account and Kingsway
11	Recovery's account to your joint account; is that	
12	correct?	
13	Α.	Yes.
14	Q.	Do you transfer funds from Kingsway
15	Recovery's a	ccount to any other accounts, whether it
16	be your wife	e's account, Graceway's account?
17	Α.	No.
18	Q.	Now, the transfers, do you transfer
19	money from y	our joint account to your wife's
20	personal account?	
21	Α.	No.
22	Q.	Does your wife transfer money, if you
23	know, from y	our joint account to her personal
24	account?	
25	Α.	I believe so.

```
1
                  Do you transfer money from your
         Q.
  personal account to your wife's account?
 2
 3
         Α.
                  No.
 4
                  Now, with the part of the $15 million
         Q.
5
  in insurance proceeds to Kingsway, did any of that
  money fund Graceway Sober Living, if you know?
 7
         Α.
                  No.
 8
         0.
                  Do you know where the funds came from
  for -- where the money came from to fund Graceway
10
  Sober Living?
11
                  Well, I mean, I believe she -- they
         Α.
12
  collect rent over there, and I believe it came from
13
  Michelle's personal funds.
14
                  It comes from your understanding is
         Q.
15
  rent and Michelle's personal account? Yes?
16
         Α.
                  Yes.
17
                  Michelle's personal account is funded
         Q.
18
  only by your joint account, or does she have any
  other source of income?
19
20
                  No, she doesn't have any other source
         Α.
21
  of income.
22
         Q.
                  Do you know how much rent Graceway is
23
  actually able to collect?
24
         Α.
                  No.
2.5
                  Now, in terms of your personal
         Q.
```

```
residence, what account was that purchased out of?
1
 2
                   I believe that was my personal
 3
  account.
 4
                  Out of your personal account?
         Q.
 5
                  Um-hmm.
         Α.
                        Was that purchased with cash or
 6
         0.
                  Yes?
7
  does that have a mortgage on it?
 8
                  Cash.
         Α.
 9
         0.
                  Any other properties that your
10
  accounts have purchased that we've not discussed,
  and let's say in the last five years I'm talking
  about?
12
13
         Α.
                  No.
14
                  Did Kingsway Recovery ever purchase
         Q.
  any vehicles?
16
                  No.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                  Not at any point since 2018?
18
         Α.
                  No.
19
                  Do you know if Kingsway's bank
         Q.
20
  account was used to purchase any vehicles at any
21
  time?
22
         Α.
                  No.
2.3
                  Did Kingsway purchase any vehicles on
         Q.
  behalf of the transportation company owned by your
2.5
  wife?
```

1	Α.	No.	
2	Q.	Did you pay off did you ever have	
3	any student loa	ans?	
4	Α.	Yes.	
5	Q.	What account did you use to pay off	
6	your student lo	pans?	
7	Α.	I believe it was the Kingsway	
8	account.		
9	Q.	How much were your student loans, if	
10	you recall?		
11	Α.	70 or 80,000.	
12	Q.	Now, in terms of other purchases from	
13	the Kingsway a	ccount, did you buy food for clients	
14	of Kingsway Recovery out of that account?		
15	Α.	No.	
16	Q.	Did you use ever use the Kingsway	
17	Recovery accour	nt for to purchase personal items	
18	or personal goo	ods, meaning items for you and/or your	
19	wife?		
20	А.	I think I bought a watch out of the	
21	account.		
22	Q.	Not anything else you can recall?	
23	А.	I can't recall anything else.	
24	Q.	Do you recall how much the watch was?	
25	Α.	No.	

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```
Now, in terms of the movement of the
1
         Q.
  funds from coming into Kingsway's account from the
  insurance companies and self-pay clients and then
  transferring them, you know, to your personal
  account, your joint account, and then the money,
  some of the money getting transferred to your wife's
  account and then your wife transfers money to
  Graceway Sober Living's account, if you know, why
  were the transfers done in this manner?
                  There was no set manner.
10
        Α.
11
                  So what made, you know, your
         Q.
12
  transfers or at least some of the transfers
13
  yourself, what made you transfer money in the way
  that you were transferring that?
14
15
         Α.
                  What do you mean by that?
16
         0.
                  Why did you decide to do it that way?
17
                  It was under the advisement of my
         Α.
18
  accountant.
19
                  So in terms of, you know, not
20
  transferring money directly from Kingsway Recovery
21
  directly into your wife's account, was that on
  advice of your accountant?
2.3
                       I don't think -- no.
                  No.
         Α.
24
                  So why did you not transfer money
  directly from, you know, you're transferring money
```

```
to your account, to your joint account from
  Kingsway, then the money is also going from the
  joint account into your wife's account. Why not
  transfer directly from Kingsway's account into your
  wife's account?
 5
                  There was no reason.
 6
 7
                  So you just decided for no reason to
         Q.
8
  do it that way?
 9
         Α.
                  I -- I just transferred money into my
  account, into my account, that was it.
11
                  And then your wife transferred money
         Q.
12
  from the joint account into her account?
13
                  I believe so.
         Α.
14
                  I'm trying to get a sense if this was
         Q.
  on advice of your accountant or if this is just what
  you chose?
16
17
                  No, my account knew that I was
         Α.
18
  transferring money from my account to the -- from
19
  the Kingsway account to my personal account.
20
                  Do you know if your wife spoke
         Q.
  directly with Joseph Kornicki?
22
         Α.
                  No.
2.3
         0.
                  She did not or you don't know?
24
         Α.
                  Spoke about what?
2.5
                  Just spoke to him about accounting?
         Q.
```

1	А.	Yeah, she did.
2	Q.	So she had her own conversations
3	outside of you:	rs and Joseph's conversations?
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	Now, through your background in the
6	mortgage indust	cry or elsewhere, do you have
7	knowledge of fe	ederal banking regulations?
8	Α.	No.
9	Q.	Are you familiar with something
10	called a curre	ncy transaction report or a CTR?
11	Α.	I am now.
12	Q.	When did you become aware or
13	approximately v	when did you become aware of what a
14	currency transa	action report was?
15	А.	About a month ago.
16	Q.	What's your understanding of what it
17	is now?	
18	А.	It is the bank, if something goes in
19	there over \$10,	,000, the bank puts a transaction
20	form.	
21	Q.	But prior to that, prior to a month
22	ago, you had no	o knowledge?
23	А.	No.
24	Q.	What about the term "structuring"?
25	Based on your :	financial background, are you familiar

```
with that term?
1
2
        Α.
                  No.
3
                  Now, I want to direct your attention
        Q.
  to what's been previously marked as AR-85 on the
  screen, and this -- and I think you may have a copy
  in front of you too if it's easier for you to see.
  This is an example of some of the transfers that the
  Commission found from Kingsway Recovery's bank
  account to your personal and your joint bank
10
             So as you can see, if you look at the
  accounts.
  screen or the document in front of you, the -- there
12
  were transactions that were made here, it looks like
13
  $9,000 increments on the same day or near
14
  consecutive days at the beginning, 6/3/2019, another
15
  one at 6/3/2019, 6/4/2019, 6/5/2019 and so forth
16
  that's going into a joint account on the other
17
  chart, 8/20/2019, 8/26/2019, 8/27/2019, 8/30/2019
18
  and so forth all in the amounts of $9,000.
19
                  Why -- can you tell me why the
20
  transfers were done in this way?
21
                  I was trying to keep them uniform.
        Α.
22
  That's all.
                That was the only reason I really had.
2.3
                  So what do you mean?
                                         Why did you
        Q.
  want to keep them uniform? What do you mean by
2.5
  t.hat.?
```

```
It was $9,000, so I just wanted to
1
         Α.
2
  keep -- that was what was in my mind, just keep
  transferring $9,000, but as you can see up there,
  6/3, I transferred two $9,000 amounts, and so that
  would have initiated a transaction report.
  just saying, that's just the way I was doing it.
 6
 7
                  So your understanding today is that
  that would --
 8
 9
         Α.
                  Yeah, yes.
10
         0.
                  Would create a currency transaction
11
  report?
12
         Α.
                  Yes.
                  Why would you do, even if it's the
13
14
  same day, that 6/3/2019, why do two transfers of
  9,000, just because you were only transferring
  9,000?
16
17
         Α.
                  Umm, I guess I needed to pay for
18
  expenses.
19
                  Why not 18,000?
         Q.
20
                  Because I was trying to keep it
         Α.
21
  uniform at 9,000.
22
         Q.
                  What made you come up with the number
23
  9,000?
24
         Α.
                  I don't recall.
2.5
                  And at some point did you stop
         Q.
```

```
transferring monies in the amount of 9,000?
                                                  Did you
  decide you didn't want to do that $9,000 uniform
 3
  transfer anymore?
 4
                  Yes.
         Α.
 5
         0.
                  When was that?
                  I don't recall.
 6
         Α.
 7
                  Why did you make that change?
         Q.
 8
         Α.
                  Because I was just -- I didn't think
  that it made too much sense anymore.
10
         Q.
                  Did somebody advise you to make those
  transfers in the $9,000 increments, or you just
11
12
  decided that on your own?
13
                  Decided that on my own.
14
                  Did anyone advise you not to make
         Q.
15
  that $9,000?
16
         Α.
                  No.
17
         Q.
                  Were the transfers done in this
  manner in the amount of $9,000 in order to avoid
18
  federal banking requirements?
19
20
                  No.
         Α.
21
                  I want to direct your attention to
  Exhibit AR-85W, which is on the screen, and I
23 believe you have a copy in front of you. Now, these
24 are just a few of the transfers that the Commission
  found from Kingsway's bank accounts into your
```

```
personal accounts. As you can see, if we look at
  that first, I don't know, block, 7/29/20, 95,000,
  7/30/20, 95,000, 8/3/20, 95,000, 8/5/20, 95,000, and
  8/5/20 also 70,000. That was going to the joint
  account and below that there's transfers in the
  amount 95, one 97 going to your personal account.
  Why were they done so in this manner of, you know,
  on the same or near consecutive dates?
9
                  I don't recall.
        Α.
10
                  Was this typical of you to do
  transfers like that on the same or near consecutive
11
12
  days?
13
        Α.
                  I don't recall.
14
                  Do you remember if you had a
         Q.
  conversation with your accountant, Joseph Kornicki,
  or anybody else about doing the transfers in this
  manner?
17
                  I don't recall that.
18
         Α.
19
                  Did anyone advise you to make them in
         Q.
20
  that manner?
21
        Α.
                  No.
22
         Q.
                  Were these, any of these transfers
2.3
  done to avoid federal and state tax requirements?
24
        Α.
                  No.
2.5
                  Were any of the transfers that we
         Q.
```

```
just discussed, whether it's these on AR-85W or any
  transfers you've done in the past done so in a
  manner to -- that would avoid detection of insurance
  payments that came into Kingsway Recovery?
5
        Α.
                  No.
                  MS. CIALINO: Commissioners, at this
6
7
  point I'm going to pass back to you to see if you
  have any questions before we move on.
9
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      I do.
                                              I'm just
10
  wondering what were these transfers for,
  particularly AR-85V, if we could start there with
12
  the $9,000 transfers, what was it for?
13
                  THE WITNESS:
                               Umm, just expenses that
14 we had, expenses for growing this business.
15
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      When you say
  "expenses," am I correct that these were transfers
17
  to you?
18
                  THE WITNESS:
                                They were transfers
19
  from the business account to my personal account.
20
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Right. So what
  are the expenses you're talking about?
22
                  THE WITNESS:
                                I just had expenses
2.3
  that I had to pay.
                       I mean, I remember back then
24
  there was expenses, so...
2.5
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      When you say
```

```
"expenses," I just want to clarify. Are you talking
1
2
  about personal expenses or business expenses?
3
                  THE WITNESS:
                               Personal.
4
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: So were you using
5
  these as compensation?
                  THE WITNESS:
6
                               Yes.
7
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Did you also draw
8
  a salary, you said?
9
                  THE WITNESS:
                               Yes.
10
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: What was the
11
  salary that you drew?
12
                  THE WITNESS: 65,000.
13
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Okay. My last
14
  question is did you have an internal or external
  auditor of your financial statements? Did you have
  any internal employee that did auditing of your
17
  financials for an external auditor that you hired?
18
                  THE WITNESS:
                                No.
19
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      That's all the
20
  questions I have, counsel. No other commissioner
  has questions.
22
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                Okay.
23 BY MS. CIALINO:
24
                  I want to move on at this point and
  talk some about the services, back to the services
```

```
that Kingsway Recovery offered patients.
                                              In terms
  of the individual counseling sessions that we talked
  about at the beginning of this for partial care and
  IOP clients, do you know if these sessions, you said
5
  they were about 45 minutes; is that correct?
                  I believe so.
6
         Α.
7
                  Was it always 45 minutes or could
         0.
8
  they be like could someone get an hour-and-a-half
  session or is there like a set amount of time for
  these individual sessions? How does it work?
10
11
                  I believe 45 was the standard.
         Α.
12
         Q.
                  That's just standard in the industry?
13
                  Yeah, I believe so.
         Α.
14
                  Now, do you know if any of these
         Q.
  |individual counseling sessions were ever cut short?
16
         Α.
                  Kingsway files protocols, so all
17
  therapists run their sessions to the full duration
18
  of time, and the director of operations will
19
  oversee -- oversees that.
20
         Q.
                  Did you ever receive reports at any
  point, you know, since 2018 about individual
22
  counseling sessions getting cut short?
2.3
                  No.
         Α.
24
                  Would it surprise you to hear that
  staff members of Kingsway have stated that this was
```

```
a recurring practice of cutting these individual
1
2
  sessions short?
3
        Α.
                  Yeah, that would be a surprise.
4
                  So it was never reported to you?
        Q.
5
         Α.
                  No.
                  Now, if it was, let's say, a client
6
         0.
  of Kingsway, a patient at Kingsway had a complaint
  about the care they were receiving or the services
  provided to them that they were receiving, where is
10
  that complaint supposed to go? How is that supposed
  to work?
11
12
        Α.
                  Supposed to go to the clinical
13
  director.
14
                  What does the clinical director do
        Q.
15
  with it?
16
        Α.
                  Would talk to the operational
17
  director.
18
                  And does it make its way up to you or
19
  is it supposed to make its way up to you?
20
                  I don't know. I don't know that, but
        Α.
  I've never heard of that before, so...
22
         Q.
                  If a staff member, let's say a
23
  clinician, had a complaint about, you know,
  something they were being told to do, you know, as
  part of their job, where would that complaint --
```

```
where was that complaint supposed to go?
1
2
                  Of a staff member?
        Α.
 3
                  Yeah, like a clinician, let's say?
         Q.
4
                  It would go to the clinical director.
        Α.
5
         0.
                  From there, where does the complaint
  go from the clinical director? Is it documented
6
7
  anywhere?
8
                  If there was a complaint, it should
        Α.
  have been, it should be documented, yes.
10
                  What is done with that documented
         0.
11
  complaint or what should be done with it?
12
                  I am not sure, but it would be
13
  reported to the operations person.
14
                  And then is it supposed to -- are you
         Q.
  supposed to be made aware of it?
16
                  There's no set thing that they have
         Α.
17
  to make me aware of it, but they might clue me in.
18
                  Have you ever been made aware of any
19
  complaints, not just about cutting therapy sessions
20
  short, but any complaints from staff members,
21
  Kingsway staff members, have you ever been made
  personally aware?
22
2.3
         Α.
                  No.
24
                  What about back to client or patient
  complaints, are those documented or are they
```

```
supposed to be documented?
1
 2
         Α.
                  They are documented.
 3
         0.
                  What's done with them after they are
  documented?
 5
         Α.
                  They go to the clinical director.
 6
                  And then what are they filed
         0.
 7
  somewhere, or are they supposed to --
 8
                  I'm not sure what the end result of
  them is, but I don't know.
10
         0.
                  Have you ever personally been made
  aware of any patient complaints, any at all --
12
         Α.
                  No.
13
                  -- at Kingsway? Now in terms of when
14
  the individual counseling sessions happen at
  Kingsway, are they -- do they have it before group
15
16
  session, in the middle of group session, after group
17
  session, how does that work?
18
         Α.
                  It would be before and after.
19
         Q.
                  So never during the middle of group
20
  therapy?
21
         Α.
                  No.
22
         Q.
                  So has Kingsway Recovery ever taken
23
  clients out of group therapy in order to provide
24
  them with individual counseling?
2.5
         Α.
                  Not to my knowledge.
```

```
1
         0.
                  What about case management services,
  does Kingsway Recovery take clients out of group
  therapy in order to provide these case management
  services we talked about at the beginning?
 5
         Α.
                  No.
 6
         0.
                  When are the case management services
 7
  done or provided?
 8
         Α.
                  Before or after group.
 9
         0.
                  And how do you know that nobody was
10
  ever taken out of group therapy for individual
  sessions?
11
12
         Α.
                  It was not brought to my attention.
13
                  It has never been brought to your
         0.
14
  attention?
15
                  No.
         Α.
                  Now, are there like schedules for --
16
         Q.
17
  does Kingsway have schedules for individual
18
  patients, like you come in here today and at 10:00
19
  a.m. you go to individual therapy, at 10:45 you
20
  start group or anything like that?
                                         Is that
21
  documented anywhere?
22
         Α.
                  I'm not sure.
                                  I'm not sure how that
23 was done.
24
                  Who would be in charge of documenting
2.5
  it?
```

1	А.	The
2	Q.	Or who would know?
3	Α.	The director of operations.
4	Q.	Is that inputted into KIPU?
5	Α.	I don't think so. I'm not sure. I
6	don't know.	
7	Q.	Are like the times of group therapy
8	sessions and th	ne times of individual therapy
9	sessions actual	lly inputted into the electronic
10	medical records	5?
11	Α.	I believe so.
12	Q.	What about nursing services, if a
13	client needs nu	arsing services, are they taken out of
14	group therapy o	or when are those done?
15	Α.	Before or after group.
16	Q.	And you've never no one's ever
17	told you that t	that's occurring during a group
18	therapy session	ı?
19	Α.	No.
20	Q.	Have you ever talked to your director
21	of operations,	have you ever talked to your director
22	of operations a	about, you know, the timing of these
23	different serv	ices that Kingsway's offered, the
24	timing of them,	, whether it's when did they
25	happen? Do yoı	get into the nitty-gritty of that?

A. No.
Q. Now, you said you watched the hearing
on or you were able to listen to the hearing on
October 11th, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And in that there were allegations
that made by the SCI that we found that people
were being taken out of group therapy for individual
sessions and case management services and then at
the same time were being billed, the insurance
companies were being billed as if the service wasn't
overlapping but happened before or after.
After you heard that, did you talk to
your director of operations?
A. No.
Q. You didn't say is this actually
occurring or
A. I didn't. I didn't see that part of
the hearing. I did not. I did not see that.
Q. So you have not talked to your
director of operations about that?
A. No.
Q. Now at Kingsway, if a client relapses
and needs to go back to detox, do you know if that
triggers a new period of insurance benefits in terms

```
of PHP or IOP?
                  Would that event, relapse, would
2
  that trigger more insurance payments?
3
                  Can you repeat the first part of
        Α.
  that?
4
5
         Q.
                  Let me step back. So -- and I assume
6
  this is different for every insurance provider, but
  let's say maybe typically how many days will an
  insurance company cover PHP or partial -- I forget
  what you refer to it as, partial care treatment?
10
        Α.
                  Are you looking for like an average?
11
                  Yeah, I know I'm sure they differ for
         Q.
12
  every company?
13
                  Okay, so let me explain it.
  mean, the insurance company might grant like a week
14
  or two for partial care.
15
16
         Q.
                  Okay. And then after that, would the
17
  insurance company pay for IOP?
18
         Α.
                  Yes.
19
                  Typically, again, I know it's going
         Q.
20
  to be different for every person and every
21
  insurance, but typically about how long does the
22
  insurance company cover IOP?
2.3
                  That could be like two weeks to maybe
        Α.
24
  five weeks, something like that.
2.5
                  Okay. So let's say somebody does
        Q.
```

```
their partial care, that time runs up in terms of
  when the insurance will pay or that person is
  progressing well and gets bumped out of IOP. Now,
  if there is a relapse, at that point would the
5
  insurance company then pay again starting with
  partial care?
6
7
        Α.
                  It depends.
8
                  Can you explain like how that works?
         0.
9
                  So if -- it depends on the severity
         Α.
10
  of the relapse.
11
                  What do you mean by that?
         Q.
12
         Α.
                  So if the person, let's say, smoked
13
  marijuana and they were in partial care, it might
  not trigger a detox, but if the person is doing
14
  fentanyl or heroin, they would be sent out to a
16
  detox.
17
                  Okay.
                         Then let's say the person
         Q.
18
  used, you know, an opioid and had to go back to
19
  detox, then would that insurance company or
20
  typically would that insurance company now start
  from partial care, you know, week one, again?
21
22
        Α.
                  Yeah, go to detox.
                                       They would have
23
  their stay in detox and then the partial care.
24
                  A relapse can trigger a new period of
  insurance benefits?
```

1	А.	Yes.
2	Q.	How does Kingsway report clients'
3	progress, a cli	lent's progress to insurance
4	companies?	
5	А.	So our utilization review team uses
6	industry standa	ards to assess the patient's condition
7	and neither exa	aggerates or downplays the condition
8	if they are	the condition is as is.
9	Q.	So they sorry, they use industry
10	standards to wh	nat?
11	А.	To assess the condition of a client.
12	Q.	What when you say industry
13	standards, what	are you referring to?
14	А.	Uh, the ASAM model.
15	Q.	And how often, so what's actually
16	being reported?	So the observations or is there
17	what's being re	eported to the insurance company?
18	А.	Clinicals.
19	Q.	The clinical person's observations of
20	the patient or	what?
21	А.	The clinical review is given to the
22	insurance compa	any.
23	Q.	How often is that done?
24	А.	When the client's review is due.
25	Q.	So how often are those due? Is it

```
different for every insurance company?
2
                  Different for every insurance.
3
                  Typically is it a once a week thing,
         Q.
  once a month thing?
5
        Α.
                  Probably maybe biweekly would be a
6
  good average there.
                  So the clinical staff is the one
  filling out that information that eventually makes
  its way to the insurance company?
10
                  The utilization review team would
        Α.
  then -- so the clinical team puts everything into
12
  the EMR system, and then the utilization review team
13
  would report it to the insurance companies.
14
                  Okay. Now the utilization review
         Q.
15
  team, currently who's on that?
16
                  Umm, you want names?
        Α.
                                         Sharhonda is
  our utilization review manager.
17
18
                  And does she have other people
19
  working under her?
20
                  Yeah, there's one other person.
         Α.
21
                  One other person?
         0.
22
        Α.
                  Yeah.
2.3
                  Who reviews the utilization?
         Q.
  anyone outside of Sharondha review the utilization
  reviews before they go to the insurance companies?
```

1	Α.	I don't believe so.
2	Q.	Have you ever look at utilization
3	reviews before	they go out to insurance companies?
4	Α.	No.
5	Q.	Never, never since 2018?
6	Α.	Not since we've been operating like
7	I've seen t	nem before when we first started, yes.
8	Q.	So when you first started?
9	Α.	When we first started, the ReliaBill
10	was doing the	utilization reviews. I've never done
11	a utilization :	review, but I know that the ReliaBill
12	would do it, s	o the lady would send that stuff to
13	the would so	end the clinicals to the insurance
14	companies.	
15	Q.	Okay. So let's talk about ReliaBill.
16	ReliaBill was v	what? What kind of company is
17	ReliaBill?	
18	Α.	They were a medical billing company.
19	Q.	So when did Kingsway use them?
20	Α.	From the start.
21	Q.	So 2018 until when?
22	Α.	'21.
23	Q.	Are you sure on the 2021 date or is
24	it before that	?
25	Α.	No, ReliaBill was used into '21.

1	Q.	What were ReliaBill used for, medical
2	billing, so the	ey did utilization reviews?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	What else did they do?
5	Α.	Verification of benefits.
6	Q.	Anything else?
7	Α.	I think that's it.
8	Q.	Then how did you end up where is
9	ReliaBill out	of?
10	Α.	They were out of Florida.
11	Q.	How did you end up choosing to use
12	ReliaBill?	
13	Α.	At a past job I heard of them. One
14	of my past emp	loyers was using it.
15	Q.	Do you remember which one?
16	Α.	Yes, Victory Bay.
17	Q.	Had you who at ReliaBill did you
18	work with or K	ingsway work with? Who was the
19	account manager who handled everything coming out of	
20	Kingsway?	
21	Α.	I believe a guy named Carlton was the
22	main point of	contact.
23	Q.	Do you remember his last name?
24	Α.	No.
25	Q.	Do you remember any other names of

```
people at ReliaBill that Kingsway worked with?
1
2
                  I'm sorry, I'm trying to remember the
  names of anybody else. Jean, there was a Jean, but
  I do not remember her last name.
5
                  Janine?
        0.
        Α.
 6
                  Yeah.
7
                  Did you communicate directly with
        Q.
  ReliaBill?
8
9
        Α.
                  I communicated directly with Carlton
  at ReliaBill.
10
11
                  What did you communicate with Carlton
         Q.
12 about?
13
                  Just the service, like how they were
14 doing. It was more like if they -- if I had a
15 question or something and I couldn't get through to
16 somebody, there was -- I would talk to Carlton about
17 lit.
18
                  What type of questions would you have
        Q.
19 for ReliaBill?
20
                  I would just ask questions about
        Α.
  billing, how they did it. I was trying to learn.
22
         Q.
                  Why did you want to learn?
2.3
                  Just learn like what was going on,
         Α.
24 because they kind of, with billing, with the big
25 billing teams like that, the national billing teams,
```

```
they kind of want to bill the dependents upon the
  treatment center, so they don't communicate with me
  that much, so, you know, I just wanted to learn a
  little bit about it so I would call them and, you
 5
  know.
                  How often would you speak to them?
 6
         0.
 7
         Α.
                  Once every couple weeks.
 8
         0.
                  Would you review the work that
  ReliaBill was doing?
10
         Α.
                  No.
11
                  Did you ever review when ReliaBill
         Q.
12
  was doing the utilization reviews, did you ever
13
  review them?
14
         Α.
                  No.
15
         Q.
                  Did anybody at Kingsway review
  ReliaBill's work?
17
         Α.
                  No.
18
                  Now, in terms of the, I quess, let's
19
  say, the reporting of a client's progress to health
20
  insurance companies, was the reporting by clinicians
21
  of a client's progress to your knowledge, was it
  lever downplayed in order to make it look like the
23
  client or the patient was doing worse than they
24
  actually were?
2.5
         Α.
                  No.
```

```
1
         0.
                   Have you ever personally instructed
 2
  staff to downplay clients' progress in reports in
 3
  KIPU?
 4
                   No.
         Α.
 5
         Q.
                   What about your wife, has she ever
 6
  done so?
 7
         Α.
                   No.
 8
         0.
                   How do you know that?
 9
                   I know we wouldn't -- never do
         Α.
10
  something like that.
11
                   Do you know if your wife has ever
         Q.
12
  instructed staff on how to fill out utilization
13
  reviews to insurance companies?
14
                   No.
         Α.
15
         Q.
                   Has your wife ever been present at
  any Kingsway staff meetings?
17
         Α.
                   No.
18
                   Has your wife ever been present at
         Q.
19
  the Kingsway offices, administrative offices?
20
         Α.
                   I think she, she came by before.
21
                   Just here and there or was it
         0.
22
  reqularly?
23
                   Here and there to say hi.
         Α.
24
                   How often does Kingsway Recovery
25
  collect urine samples from clients to determine if
```

```
they relapsed?
1
 2
         Α.
                   I believe it's once, I believe it's
 3
  weekly.
 4
                   Who determined that it be done
         0.
 5
  weekly?
 6
                   The clinical director.
         Α.
 7
                   Has it always been weekly or at any
         0.
  point since Kingsway's been open was it more than,
  done on more than a weekly basis?
10
                   I believe that's been the standard.
         Α.
11
         Q.
                   Now what lab is Kingsway currently
12
  use?
13
                   SDX.
         Α.
14
         Q.
                   Where is SDX out of?
15
                   I'm not sure where they are out of,
         Α.
  but I think it's New Jersey.
17
         Q.
                   How long have you used SDX?
18
         Α.
                   I think about -- I think it's over a
19
  year.
20
                   And prior to SDX, who did you use?
         Q.
21
         Α.
                   Ammon.
22
                   Ammon Labs is located in New Jersey?
         0.
23
         Α.
                   Yes.
                   Any other labs that Kingsway has ever
24
         Q.
2.5
  used?
```

1	Α.	No.
2	Q.	What about a lab called Gene Tox
3	Worldwide doin	g business as Scientia?
4	Α.	That's SDX.
5	Q.	Is it correct that they are known as
6	Scientia?	
7	Α.	I think so.
8	Q.	Who chose what lab Kingsway uses?
9	Α.	The clinical director.
10	Q.	So who chose to use Scientia? Who
11	was clinical d:	irector at the time?
12	Α.	Jessica Mercier.
13	Q.	Was there any contract that Kingsway
14	has with Scient	tia or SDX as you refer to them as?
15	Α.	I believe so.
16	Q.	Did you review that contract opinion
17	point?	
18	Α.	The clinical, Jessica, clinical
19	director.	
20	Q.	Did you sign any documents between
21	Kingsway and SI	DX?
22	Α.	I do not recall.
23	Q.	So did Jessica Mercier discuss the
24	choosing of Sc:	ientia or SDX prior to Kingsway
25	entering into (contract with them?

```
1
                  Yes, she said that she was
        Α.
2
  recommending them.
3
                  And did you do any -- did you look
        Q.
  into them?
              Did you ask around to see if they were a
  legitimate company or did you do any background or
  did you ask her?
                  I asked her, who is this lab.
  said I looked into it, they looked reputable.
  They -- they are in the state, so they are close by.
10
  And she -- I think she went through like three or
  four different labs and they picked that one.
12
                  Prior to them using Ammon Labs, why
13
  did you switch from Ammon Labs or Scientia?
14
        Α.
                  Ammon Labs, Ammon Labs called us up
  and said at one point that they were leaving, we
```

They were moving more into the Medicaid space and they didn't want to do private care.

were not going to be working with them anymore.

19 Q. Now when you worked with Ammon Labs, 20 what services did it provide to Kingsway?

A. Ammon Labs, they had a tech who would monitor and supervise the urines.

Q. The tech monitors and supervises.

What do you mean? Does the tech come out and take

the urines from the patients at Kingsway? Who

```
collects the urines?
1
 2
         Α.
                  The lab.
 3
         0.
                  You said that was done on a weekly
  basis?
 5
         Α.
                  Yes.
 6
                   Then the lab takes the urine and
         0.
7
  tests it, correct, at their own facility?
 8
                  Yes.
         Α.
 9
         Q.
                  How are the results reported back to
10
  you?
11
         Α.
                  Through a portal.
12
         Q.
                   Does it go directly into the KIPU
13
  system?
14
                  I believe so.
         Α.
15
         Q.
                  Did you ever review any lab results
  from patients at Kingsway?
17
         Α.
                  No.
18
                   Who was in charge of reviewing lab
         Q.
19
  results?
20
                  That would be the clinical director
         Α.
  or the nursing staff.
22
         0.
                   So in addition to the weekly urine
23 samples that are taken from patients, is there any
24
  other instance when a patient at Kingsway would have
2.5
  to submit a urine?
```

1		Α.	If there was under suspicion, if
2	there	was a sus	spicion.
3		Q.	Let's say somebody comes in to
4	Kingsv	vay and pe	eople believe them to be under the
5	influ∈	ence of wh	natever, let's say a narcotic. Who
6	takes	the urine	e sample at that point?
7		Α.	The lab tech.
8		Q.	The lab tech gets called out?
9		Α.	No, they are there. They work there.
10		Q.	So Ammon Labs had a full-time lab
11	tech w	vorking at	t Kingsway?
12		Α.	Correct.
13		Q.	What was the person's name?
14		Α.	I don't remember. There was multiple
15	people	e there.	
16		Q.	That were at Kingsway full time to
17	take ı	ırine samp	ples once a week?
18		Α.	I remember that there was there
19	was pe	eople the	re in the day and at night.
20		Q.	Okay. Every single day?
21		Α.	Yes.
22		Q.	Okay. Was that in the contract with
23	Ammon	Labs?	
24		Α.	Yes, I believe so.
25		Q.	What about Scientia?

```
Α.
 1
                   Yes.
 2
         0.
                   Did they have somebody there every
 3
   day and every night?
 4
                   Yes.
         Α.
 5
                          Now who pays that person?
         0.
                   Okay.
                   Them.
 6
         Α.
 7
                   Did you have to -- Kingsway have to
         Q.
  pay Ammon Labs for these services?
 8
 9
         Α.
                   No.
10
         Q.
                   So they are just -- they are just
11
  there on a daily basis?
12
         Α.
                   Yeah.
                          The lab will take this, the
13
  urine sample, and bill the insurance company.
14
                   Right. Okay.
         0.
15
                   That's how it is.
         Α.
16
                   I'm trying to make sure I understand
         Q.
17
  that Kingsway does not have to pay the lab to have
  one of the lab's employees on site 24 hour morning
18
19
  and night?
20
         Α.
                   No.
21
                   Kingsway employees, did they have
         Q.
  any, you know, job in assisting with the urine
22
23
  collection?
24
                        It was the lab who did the
         Α.
                   No.
25
  collection.
```

```
Is there a Kingsway employee that
1
         Q.
 2
  would oversee the lab tech who was on premises?
 3
         Α.
                  No.
 4
                  So when urines were taken, it was
         0.
 5
  only the lab employee who was present? No Kingsway
 6
  employees would be present at the same time?
 7
                  I mean, there was Kingsway employees
 8
  around in the facility, but the lab tech would be
  supervising it.
10
                  The urine collection?
         Q.
11
         Α.
                  Yes.
12
         Q.
                  So no Kingsway employees in addition
13
  to the lab tech is what I'm trying to get at?
14
                  No.
         Α.
15
                  Now, has Kingsway ever falsified
         Q.
  urine samples in order to report to the client's
17
  health insurance that the individual is still using
  and in need of additional addiction treatment?
18
19
         Α.
                  No.
20
                  How do you know this hasn't happened?
         Q.
21
                  It wouldn't happen if there's --
         Α.
  there's no way that that would happen.
2.3
                  Why?
                        How do you know that?
         Q.
24
                  I mean, the lab tech is there,
  and I can't believe that that would ever happen.
```

```
So you -- I'm sorry, I don't mean to
1
         Q.
2
  repeat myself. You don't know the name of the lab
  tech from Ammon Labs or you do?
4
                  No, I don't remember the name of the
        Α.
  lab techs from Ammon Labs.
6
                  What about the current lab tech from
         0.
7
  Scientia, do you remember the names?
8
        Α.
                  I can't, I forget his name, but I can
  get that.
10
                  Off the top of your head you don't
         Q.
  recall --
11
12
        Α.
                  Correct.
13
         0.
                  -- now?
14
                  MS. CIALINO: Before we move on, do
  the commissioners have any questions based on that?
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       No questions.
17
  Thank you.
              Do we want to do a check-in at least of
18
  whether we think we need to break or --
19
                  MS. CIALINO: Off the record?
20
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: We're just going
  to go off the record for a moment.
22
                  (A discussion takes place off the
23 record.)
24
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       We believe we are
  going to be able to finish in less than an hour, and
```

```
it's my understanding that you are opting to
2
  continue on as opposed to a lunch break at this
3
  point?
4
                  THE WITNESS:
                                That's correct.
5
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Wonderful.
  Counsel?
6
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                Thank you, chair.
  BY MS. CIALINO:
8
9
                  Now, I just have a few questions
        Q.
10
  about a service agreement that Kingsway had with
11 Ammon Analytical Labs. The agreement indicates that
12
  services provided is that includes that Ammon Labs
13
  would provide Kingsway Recovery with collection
14 supplies, shipping containers, and certified
15 phlebotomist/specimen collectors. Why was Ammon
16 Labs providing Kingsway Recovery with these items if
17
  Ammon Labs was the one doing the collection of
  urine?
18
19
        Α.
                  Umm, that -- I thought that was part
20
  of the service that they provided.
21
                  What was?
        0.
22
        Α.
                  The -- I guess the materials that
23
  they brought in, that's what I thought it was for.
24
                  But they weren't -- they were
  providing them to Kingsway or they were just doing
```

```
it themselves? I'm just trying to make sure I
  understand. I'm just trying to make sure I
  understand whether the service agreement is versus
  what was happening?
 5
         Α.
                  Yeah, I'm a little bit confused by
 6
  that question.
7
                  Okay, but your recollection is that
8
  Ammon had a person there to collect the urines and,
  you know, to take them back, not ship them, but to
10
  take them back to Ammon Laboratories from Kingsway?
11
         Α.
                  Correct.
12
         0.
                  Now, also it says responsibilities,
13
  referring to the same service agreement,
14
  responsibilities for Kingsway Recovery include
15
  Kingsway Recovery must send to Ammon Analytical
16
  Laboratories specimens with A, test requisition
17
  forms, and B, billing contact information.
18
  Kingsway Recovery send specimens to Ammon Labs?
19
         Α.
                  Yes.
20
                  Or were they brought -- I'm trying
         Q.
  to -- were they sent or were they taken by Ammon
22
  Labs?
23
                  No, they were taken by -- like Ammon
         Α.
  Labs, they would do the specimen there at the
25
  facility, and then they would take them to their
```

```
facility.
1
 2
                  Okay. Do you remember signing a
  contract with Ammon Labs back in 2018, November 1,
 4
  2018?
 5
         Α.
                  Vaguely.
 6
                  Do you have a similar contract with,
         0.
 7
  currently with Scientia Diagnostic or SDX?
8
         Α.
                  We -- we do have something here, I
  believe.
             Yes.
10
                  You do have a contract?
         0.
11
         Α.
                  Yes.
12
         Q.
                  Okay. It looks like at SDX they
13
  provide somebody on site, Jean Amestica; is that
14
  correct?
15
         Α.
                  Yes.
16
                  Scientia -- and she's on site it
         Q.
17
  looks like Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to
18
  8:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  you familiar with Jean?
19
20
                  I've seen her before, yeah.
         Α.
21
                  Jean --
         0.
                  We also have this for the record too.
22
         Α.
2.3
                  Okay. Now for Scientia currently,
         Q.
24
  does Kingsway staff collect urine of female clients?
                  So if a female client is there and
2.5
         Α.
```

```
Jean is there, so the lab would get a female
  counselor to monitor the urine, but they will
  supervise that, you know, that process.
4
                  I just want to be clear, who's
        Q.
5
  supervising the process of collecting urine from
  female patients at Kingsway currently, the SDX rep
6
7
  or is it the Kingsway employee?
8
        Α.
                  Let me explain this to you.
                                                The SDX
  rep will supervise the urine collection, but there
10
  will be a monitor that would go in the bathroom with
11
  the client, if it was a female, because Jean is a
12
  male.
13
                  Okay.
                         Have you been present at
14
  Kingsway's facility when any of this urine
  collection occurred?
15
16
        Α.
                  No.
17
        Q.
                  Now --
                  We have something here from SDX we'd
18
        Α.
19
  like to put in the record too.
20
                  Yeah, your counsel has provided it to
        Q.
21
       It's a letter from SDX from Christopher
  Williams about the how SDX collects urine from
23 Kingsway Recovery. That's just -- that's what we
  just discussed, Jean, a male, is there from 10:00
  a.m. to 1:00 p.m. -- 1:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00
```

```
a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday?
1
 2
                  We have something here, if you want
  me to read it or you want me to put it in the
  record.
 4
 5
         0.
                  We have it which has been put into
  evidence.
 6
                  Now I want to talk a little bit about
8
  Graceway Sober Living. Do you know how many sober
  homes Graceway Sober Living currently owns?
10
                  Several.
         Α.
11
         0.
                  Do you know the exact number?
12
         Α.
                  No.
13
                  What's the relationship between
         0.
  Kingsway Recovery and Graceway Sober Living?
14
15
         Α.
                  The relationship is that Kingsway
  refers clients to Graceway Sober Living.
17
                  Does Graceway Sober Living refer
         Q.
18
  clients to Kingsway Recovery?
19
         Α.
                  No.
20
                  What percentage would you say
         Q.
  approximately, I know this is going to be
  approximate, of Kingsway Recovery clients reside at
23
  Graceway Sober Living?
24
         Α.
                  We don't check that information.
2.5
                  Now, clients of Kingsway that are
         Q.
```

```
staying at Graceway Sober Living, are they
 2
   transported to Kingsway Recovery or treatment?
 3
         Α.
                  I believe so.
 4
         0.
                  Who transports them?
 5
         Α.
                  I believe it's that other, the Favor
 6
  En Route transport company.
 7
                  Now, you said -- I just want -- you
         Q.
  said Kingsway Recovery refers clients to Graceway
  Sober Living. Does Kingsway Recovery refer clients
10
  to other sober living homes other than Graceway?
11
         Α.
                  Does Kingsway?
                                    Kingsway refers
12
   clients to multiple sober living homes.
13
                  What other sober living homes?
         0.
14
         Α.
                  Diane's House, Amy's House, other
15
  Oxford Houses.
16
                  Where is Amy's House?
         Q.
17
         Α.
                  West Deptford.
18
                  And you said Andy's House?
         Q.
19
         Α.
                  Amy's House.
20
                  Where is that?
         Q.
21
                   In West Deptford. There's a Shoova
         Α.
22
  House in Mullica Hill.
23
                  Who runs Diane's House?
         0.
24
                   I'm not sure.
         Α.
25
                  Who runs Amy's House?
         Q.
```

1		Α.	I don't know.	
2		Q.	How about Shoova House, who runs it?	
3		Α.	I don't know.	
4	1	Q.	Where is that located?	
5		Α.	Shoova is in Mullica Hill.	
6		Q.	Any others? Oxford Homes you said?	
7		Α.	Yes.	
8		Q.	What determines, you know, how are	
9	these	referrals	s done? Who makes them?	
10		Α.	So you want me to explain that	
11	process to you?			
12		Q.	Yes.	
13		Α.	So a client would call in the	
14	admiss	ion line	and the person in the admissions	
15	would, you know, see if they have any need for sober			
16	living, and they would give them three different			
17	sober living homes to choose.			
18		Q.	Does Diane's House transport	
19	patien	ts, Kings	sway's patients, the ones who are	
20	attending Kingsway to the facility every day?			
21		Α.	I don't know.	
22		Q.	What about Amy's House?	
23		Α.	I don't know.	
24		Q.	What about Shoova House?	
25		Α.	I don't know.	

```
1
         0.
                   What about the Oxford Homes, do they
 2
   provide transportation?
 3
         Α.
                   I don't know.
 4
         0.
                   Do you have any role at Graceway
 5
   Sober Living?
 6
         Α.
                   No.
 7
                   Have any Kingsway employees ever
         0.
 8
  volunteered for Graceway Sober Living?
 9
         Α.
                   No.
10
         Q.
                   How do you know that?
11
         Α.
                   Because Kingsway employees don't go
12
  work in there.
13
                   Would they be allowed to volunteer
         Q.
14
  over there, in a hypothetical?
15
         Α.
                   No.
16
         Q.
                   Why not?
17
         Α.
                   Because they are separate companies.
18
                   Could Kingsway Recovery employees
19
  volunteer at -- you know, for other jobs? Are they
20
  not allowed to work at other places?
21
                   No, they can, yeah.
         Α.
22
         Q.
                   So -- but you're just saying no
23
  Kingsway employees have ever volunteered at
24
  Graceway?
25
         Α.
                   Not to my knowledge.
```

```
Have Kingsway employees ever driven
1
         Q.
 2
  the vehicles that the trans -- your wife's
  transportation company operates?
 4
                  No.
         Α.
 5
         Q.
                  Do you know if every resident who
  lived at Graceway Sober Living attends Kingsway
 6
7
  Recovery for treatment?
 8
                   I believe they -- I think they go to
  other treatment centers.
10
         Q.
                  Do you know that or are you -- do you
  think that?
11
12
         Α.
                   I believe that, that they go to
13
  other.
14
                  Why do you believe that?
         Q.
15
                   I just heard it mentioned.
         Α.
16
                  Where else? Do you know where else
         Q.
17
  Graceway clients, I guess, where else they go to
  treatment at?
18
19
         Α.
                  No.
20
         Q.
                  Have you ever seen a client list from
21
  Graceway?
22
         Α.
                  No.
2.3
                  Have you ever attended a Graceway
         Q.
24
  staff meeting?
2.5
         Α.
                  No.
```

```
Now, if a Kingsway client or Kingsway
1
         Q.
 2
  patient, if their insurance runs out and they can no
  longer afford to continue to stay at Kingsway, what
  services, if any, does Kingsway offer them?
 5
                  Can you repeat that one more time?
 6
         0.
                  Let's say someone's insurance runs at
  Kingsway and they can't afford to stay any longer,
  does Kingsway provide them any services to help
  integrate them back into the community or what
10
  happens at that point?
11
                  So Kingsway would give them like a
         Α.
12
  non-pay extension, and the staff would then look for
13
  aftercare options for them.
14
         Q.
                  Is a non-pay extension given in every
15
  instance?
16
                  I'm not sure.
         Α.
17
                  Who makes that determination?
         Q.
18
         Α.
                  The director of operations.
19
                  So the director of operations herself
         Q.
20
  makes it or is it recommended by the clinical staff?
21
                  I believe it's -- there's a
         Α.
22
  collaboration.
                 She would definitely collaborate
2.3
  with them on that.
24
                  Are you made aware that someone is
2.5
  offered this?
```

```
1
         Α.
                  No.
 2
                  Now, do you know if any patients at
         Q.
  Kingsway whose insurance has run out so they are no
  longer going to attend Kingsway, were there any
  free, let's call it scholarship or time at Kingsway
  ended, do you know if they have continued to reside
7
  at Graceway?
 8
                  I don't.
         Α.
 9
                  You don't know?
         0.
10
         Α.
                  No.
11
                  Do you know if Graceway provides food
         Q.
12
  for their sober living residents?
13
                  I don't know.
         Α.
14
                  Now, before I switch gears here,
         Q.
  Commissioner, do you have any questions based on
16
  that?
17
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       None from me.
18
  Commissioner Reina?
                        No questions.
19
                  Now, we talked a little bit about
         Q.
20
  ReliaBill. Now, since Kingsway opened in 2018, have
  they been the only entity responsible for billing
  health insurance companies?
2.3
                       We employed UB Solutions to help
         Α.
                  No.
24
  us.
2.5
                  So UB Solutions, what was their role?
         Q.
```

```
Their role was to oversee our billing
1
         Α.
 2
  practices.
               We have a letter from them.
 3
                  Okay. Do you currently use UB?
         Q.
 4
         Α.
                  Yes.
 5
         Q.
                  So they oversee your -- the billing
  department at Kingsway?
 6
 7
         Α.
                  Yeah.
 8
                  Now, Kingsway, who works at
         0.
  Kingsway's billing department currently?
10
         Α.
                  Rebecca, the operations director, is
  in charge of the billing team.
12
                  So is Rebecca in charge of basically
13
  every department within Kingsway?
14
         Α.
                  Yes.
15
                  So she's -- Rebecca, what's her last
         0.
16
  name again?
17
         Α.
                  Pera.
18
                   So she's in charge of the billing
         Q.
19
  department.
                Who else works in the billing
20
  department?
21
                  I'm not sure of the names.
         Α.
22
         0.
                  How many employees work in the
23
  billing department?
24
         Α.
                  I'm not sure. I can guess.
2.5
         Q.
                   I don't need you to guess. I mean,
```

```
I'm trying to get a sense.
                                More than five?
1
                                                  Less
  than five?
 2
 3
         Α.
                  Less than five.
 4
                  Now, at some point you said, I think
         0.
 5
  you said in 2021 you stopped using ReliaBill?
 6
         Α.
                  Um-hmm, yes.
 7
                  Why did you stop using ReliaBill?
         0.
 8
         Α.
                  We stopped using ReliaBill because of
  the communication problems that we were having.
10
         Q.
                  Can you explain in a little more
11
  detail what communication problems you were having?
12
                  If we had a question regarding
         Α.
13
  billing or anything, they really wouldn't answer,
14
  so...
15
                  What questions would you have?
         Q.
16
         Α.
                  They were general questions.
17
                  Those were your own personal
         Q.
  questions or questions as to hey, we're not getting
18
19
  enough money from these, you know, claims that
20
  what type of questions?
21
         Α.
                  No, just how, you know, how they were
  billing, billing them out, how they were working.
23 You know, who was working on our account, who was
  doing the AR, who was doing the billing. It was
25
  hard to gauge them.
```

```
1
         0.
                  Were you having issues with accounts
 2
   receivable?
 3
         Α.
                  No, not really.
 4
                  Were you having issues of getting,
         0.
 5
  you know, the full amounts that you believed
  insurance companies owed to Kingsway?
 6
 7
                  No.
         Α.
 8
         0.
                  So no issues in the actual
  performance of the work ReliaBill was doing?
10
         Α.
                  No.
                        It was more of they were not
11
  communicating with us.
12
                  How much did you pay ReliaBill?
13
  it a monthly fee or yearly fee?
14
         Α.
                  It was a monthly fee.
15
         Q.
                  Do you know about how much that was?
16
                  It was -- it varied, because it was
         Α.
17
  based on a percentage.
18
                  Percentage of what?
         Q.
19
         Α.
                  The gross revenue that they brought
20
        So when we sign the contract, you know, I've
  never done billing before, when we sign a contract
22
  with ReliaBill, they gave us like a percentage that
23
  they would take. That's how the contract was
24
  stated.
25
         Q.
                  What percentage was that?
```

```
I believe it was like 7 percent.
 1
         Α.
 2
                   So typically, again, I'm sure it
         Q.
 3
  varied per month, typically how much money were you
  paying ReliaBill in a month?
 5
                  Maybe 20, 25,000.
 6
                   To bill -- actually bill the
         0.
 7
  linsurance companies, did ReliaBill have access to
  the EMR system, KIPU?
 9
         Α.
                   Yes.
10
                   And what do you know or if you know,
         Q.
11
  what did they look at inside KIPU to fill out their
12
  claims?
13
                   I at that -- that I did not know.
14
                   At some point did you bring your
         0.
  billing in-house?
16
                   Yes.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                   And you said that was in 2021?
18
         Α.
                   Yes.
19
         Q.
                   Did you have a contract with
20
  ReliaBill?
21
                   Yes.
         Α.
22
         Q.
                   That was signed by you?
23
         Α.
                   Yes.
24
                   Was that something that was -- you
         Q.
25
  had to re-sign every year, or was that like you
```

```
signed it in 2018 and it was good until you fired
 2
  them essentially?
 3
         Α.
                  I believe I signed -- it was weird.
  I signed like two contracts with them, but I'm not
 4
 5
   -- I don't remember how they were set up. I don't
  remember.
 6
 7
         Q.
                  Did you retain those contracts?
                  Do I have them?
 8
         Α.
 9
         0.
                  Yes.
10
                  Umm --
         Α.
11
         Q.
                  Not with you, I mean did you retain
12
  them?
13
                  Yeah, I think so.
         Α.
14
                  So when you brought the billing
         Q.
  in-house, how did you set that up? How did you make
16
  that transition from an outside company to in-house?
17
                  That's why UB Solutions was in charge
         Α.
18
  of getting that set up, help us, after we made the
19
  transition from ReliaBill to our in-house billing.
20
                  So you brought on UB Solutions to
         Q.
  help make that transition?
22
         Α.
                  Yes.
2.3
                  Who was in charge of training
         Q.
  Kingsway's employees on how to bill insurance
2.5
  companies?
```

1	Α.	They were.
2	Q.	"They" meaning?
3	А.	They helped training, but we had
4	brought in peop	ole that were experienced in that
5	regard.	
6	Q.	Okay. Now, what was your role in
7	overseeing UB S	Solutions at Kingsway with the work
8	they were doing	g at Kingsway?
9	А.	I would just speak to them on how
10	the, you know,	how everything was going.
11	Q.	How often would you speak to somebody
12	at UB Solutions	3 ?
13	А.	Maybe once a week.
14	Q.	Who at UB Solutions would you speak
15	to?	
16	А.	Tiffany.
17	Q.	Tiffany what?
18	А.	Madden.
19	Q.	Did any other UB Solutions employees
20	work on Kingswa	ay's billing?
21	А.	I think so.
22	Q.	Do you recall their names?
23	А.	There was one other person that was
24	helping with th	ne transition. Off the top of my
25	head, I cannot	remember her name right now.

1	Q.	Was it Rebecca Profitt?			
2	А.	Yes, that's it.			
3	Q.	Now Tiffany Madden you said was the			
4	other name?				
5	А.	Yes.			
6	Q.	How often was Tiffany Madden on site			
7	at Kingsway's a	administrative offices?			
8	Α.	She wasn't on site. It was Rebecca			
9	Profitt that was on.				
10	Q.	So what was so Rebecca Profitt's			
11	on site. What	was she doing on site?			
12	А.	Talking to the employees about how			
13	they were setti	ng up and how they were moving into			
14	their into t	the billing, the in-house billing.			
15	Q.	So was Rebecca Profitt doing the			
16	training?				
17	А.	Yes, she was helping out with the			
18	training, yes.				
19	Q.	Who was working at the time when the			
20	transition was	being made to in-house, who were the			
21	Kingsway employ	vees working on billing?			
22	А.	There was the biller. There was			
23	Monica. There	was Vanessa, and Lynn.			
24	Q.	Monica, do you know her last name?			
25	А.	I can't remember it off the top of my			

1	head.	
2	Q.	What about Vanessa?
3	Α.	I believe her last name was Samuels.
4	Q.	And then you said somebody else?
5	Α.	Lynn.
6	Q.	Lynn, do you remember her last name?
7	Α.	Dalbow.
8	Q.	Do any of those employees still work
9	at Kingsway?	
10	Α.	Lynn.
11	Q.	Lynn still does billing at Kingsway?
12	Α.	Yes, she does accounts receivable.
13	Q.	Why did you decide not why. I
14	guess how did	you make the decision to hire UB
15	Solutions over	other companies that provide the same
16	work?	
17	Α.	They are experienced, 25 years in the
18	business. The	y were local. They weren't a big
19	billing company	y, so that made me very happy.
20	Q.	You're saying it was your
21	understanding t	the company's been around for 25
22	years?	
23	Α.	They had 25 years' experience in
24	billing, UB Sol	lutions.
25	Q.	So when you say that Tiffany

```
Madden -- do you know, did she work in billing
 2
  prior?
 3
         Α.
                  I'm not sure how her structure was.
  I know there was 25, she told me it was 25 years.
 5
         Q.
                  That's what she told you?
                  And she seemed very knowledgeable.
 6
         Α.
 7
                  What about Rebecca Profitt who was on
         0.
8
  site, what was her background?
 9
         Α.
                  Same, same type of background.
10
         Q.
                  Background in?
11
         Α.
                  Like 25 years' experience, very
12
  knowledgeable seemed like, was teaching our billing
13
  team many different things, so...
14
                  Did you witness her teaching the
         Q.
15
  billing team?
16
                  Just, I would talk to her and then
         Α.
17
  she would go and work with billing.
18
                  Now, is UB Solutions still performing
19 work on behalf of Kingsway?
20
                  Yes, they are still consulting with
         Α.
21
  us.
22
         Q.
                  So consulting, what are we talking,
23 how often?
24
         Α.
                  Whenever the billing team has a
  question or anything.
```

```
How many hours?
1
         Q.
 2
         Α.
                  They would call them. Director of
 3
  operations will reach out to UB Solutions.
 4
                  Now, does Kingsway pay UB Solutions
         Q.
5
  on an hourly -- for an hourly rate?
 6
                  No, I believe it's a flat rate
         Α.
7
  monthly.
8
                  How much?
         0.
 9
                  I think it's $2,000.
         Α.
10
                  How often, you know, currently is
         Q.
11 Kingsway's billing department reaching out to UB
  Solutions?
12
13
         Α.
                  I don't know, but I can probably get
14
  you that information.
15
                  So 2,000 a month, that's been going
         Q.
  on since 2021 or has that amount changed?
17
         Α.
                  It was more before. When they were
18
  doing the transition, it was much more.
19
         Q.
                  Now, at any point did Rebecca or
20
  somebody else from UB, you know, reach out to you
21
  and let you know, you know, what they found from
22
  looking at the billing practices or anything like
23
  that?
24
                  Well, we have the letter here what
         Α.
25
  they stated.
```

```
But at any point, you know, prior?
1
        Q.
2
        Α.
                  Umm, I think Tiffany, Tiffany reached
3
  out to me and she said that there was nothing done
  that was anything wrong, but they were a little bit
  disorganized.
                  I think that's what her words were.
                  Was they being disorganized, was that
6
        Q.
7
  ReliaBill?
8
        Α.
                  ReliaBill, yeah.
 9
                  Did you have any conversations with
        Q.
  Rebecca Profitt about the way that the billing had
10
  been done by ReliaBill?
12
        Α.
                  No.
13
                  Now I want to direct your attention
  to what I'm going to mark as AR-88. It's on the
14
15
  screen and I believe you have a copy too in front of
  you which was provided to us yesterday.
17
  appears to be from the UB Solutions on the top and
  it looks like it is written from UB Solutions, LLC
18
19
  and Tiffany Madden's name is written at the bottom
20
  of that. It's a document you received from where?
21
                  It's a document I received from
        Α.
  Tiffany.
22
2.3
                  (Exhibit AR-88, UB Solutions document,
24
  is received and marked for identification.)
                  Looks like it's undated. When was
2.5
        Q.
```

```
this document received?
1
2
        Α.
                  I'm not sure.
3
                  Why did you receive this document?
         Q.
4
  Did you request it?
5
         Α.
                  Yes.
                  Why did you request it?
 6
         0.
7
                  We wanted to see, we just wanted to
         Α.
8
  get something from them about the billing.
9
                  Looks like, as I'm read the document
         Q.
  in front of you, it says, "This contract was
  linitiated to assist with unresolved billing concerns
12
  from the time period of January 2020 through
13
  February 2021. These concerns are regarding but not
  limited to open accounts receivable, payments
14
15
  received by both the insurance company and the
  patients, denied claims and appeals and reviewing
17
  rendered services against billed services."
18
                  Now, was part of the reason that UB
19
  Solutions was retained was to get additional monies
20
  that you believe was owed to Kingsway from insurance
21
  companies that they had failed to pay?
22
         Α.
                  The main reason for bringing them on
2.3
  was because we were not -- we were not getting
24
  communications from ReliaBill that -- so we needed
  UB Solutions. I just wanted them to look over
```

```
everything that ReliaBill did.
1
2
                  Did you have a concern about
3
  ReliaBill's work?
4
                  I just, you know, felt like they kept
        Α.
5
  us in the dark. I wanted to make sure that I's were
  dotted and T's were crossed.
7
                  Now, when Kingsway's billing was
8 brought in-house, at that point did the internal
  billing people for Kingsway continue to bill in the
10 same manner that ReliaBill was? Did they review
11 ReliaBill's work and continue to bill in the same
12 manner?
13
        Α.
                  Yes.
14
                  Who instructed them to do that?
        Q.
15
        Α.
                  They billed but they were, I think
  they were learning more and more from the insurance
17
  companies and it was -- like they were just getting
  a better process.
18
19
                  Internally getting a better process?
        0.
20
        Α.
                  Internally, correct.
21
                  Now, this document, just to finish
  since I read part of it, "Per our findings, all
  services billed for the time period listed above
2.3
24
  were rendered by Kingsway Recovery Center." To make
  that determination, what did UB Solutions look at?
```

1	Α.	The past records ReliaBill was doing.
2	Q.	Just ReliaBill's records or what
3	else, anything	else?
4	Α.	No.
5	Q.	Did they look at utilization reviews?
6	А.	I'm not sure.
7	Q.	Did they look at the KIPU system?
8	Α.	I'm not sure.
9	Q.	Did they look at clinician notes?
10	Α.	I'm not sure.
11	Q.	Did they speak to any employees from
12	Kingsway who we	ere actually providing services to
13	clients?	
14	А.	I don't think so.
15	Q.	Now, are you familiar with the
16	billing term of	f bundled code or bundled billing?
17	Α.	Yes.
18	Q.	Can you explain to me what that is?
19	Α.	A bundle code is a code that you
20	would use to ki	ind of wrap up a couple different
21	services in one	e code.
22	Q.	Okay. Now, do you know if Kingsway
23	Recovery was bi	illing insurance under these bundled
24	billing codes f	for IOP or partial care treatment?
25	Α.	They are now.

165

```
1
        0.
                  They are now. Do you know if prior
  to the current time if Kingsway billed insurance
2
  companies under this bundle code?
4
                  No, I don't think they -- I don't
        Α.
5
  know if they were doing that. The bundling happened
  a little bit later.
6
7
                  Okay. Do you know when, when -- I
8
  quess I'll make it easier. Pre bringing the billing
  in-house, when ReliaBill was doing it, were they
  billing under the bundle codes?
11
        Α.
                  Was ReliaBill billing under the
12
  bundle codes and using the bundle services?
13
                  Yes.
        0.
14
        Α.
                       They were billing separate
                  No.
15
  services.
16
        Q.
                  Once you brought the billing
17
  in-house, at that point did you go to the bundle
  codes or when did you go to the bundle codes?
18
19
        Α.
                  The bundling didn't happen until
20
  later, so they were still separating like ReliaBill
21
  was doing.
22
        Q.
                  How do you know that? Were you
23 reviewing ReliaBill's records?
24
                  No, it's just, you know, having
  conversations with the billing company.
```

166

```
How do you know that your internal
1
         Q.
  billing team was not using a bundle code back in
3
  2021?
4
                  I don't know if they were -- what
        Α.
  code are you talking about?
                  Like, for example, talking IOP, an
6
         Q.
7
  H0015 code?
8
        Α.
                  I'm not sure if they were using that
  specific code. I jut thought you were talking about
10
  bundling.
11
                  I am talking generally bundle codes,
         Q.
12
  right, so they exist for, I know at least for IOP
13
  and PHP.
            Do they exist for something else?
14
                  Not to my knowledge.
         Α.
                  So those are what I'm referring to,
15
         Q.
  the IOP bundle code and PHP bundle code. I want to
17
  get a sense of how you know what Kingsway was
  billing using bundle billing or not. I'm trying to
18
19
  get a sense of how you knew that?
20
        Α.
                  Just by talking to the company.
21
                  What about are you familiar with the
         0.
  billing term of unbundled code?
2.3
                  Yes.
        Α.
24
                  And that is -- what's your
  understanding of that?
```

```
So if you're billing an IOP bundle
1
        Α.
2
  code, so if you have an IOP bundle and then you have
  an individual session and then you have a urine, I
  think that was up on one of your things, since we
  are out of network, not in contract with the
6
  insurance company, you can separate the billing.
                                                      So
  you can have three different separate -- billing
  separate and it's unbundled at that point.
9
                  So that would be like billing group
        Q.
10
  therapy as one, individual therapy as another, maybe
11
  urine collection as a third, for example, correct?
12
        Α.
                  Yes.
13
                  And does Kingsway Recovery currently
        0.
  use unbundled codes to bill?
                  I think that's where we are getting a
15
        Α.
  little -- like the H code, which is a bundle code,
17
  you can still use that and unbundle, but now at
18
  Kingsway it's just the bundle code is up there.
19
                  So you're telling me that it's okay
20
  to use the bundle code and then also the unbundled
21
  codes for the same services?
22
        Α.
                  Yes -- not for the same services, for
2.3
  different services.
24
                  For different services.
                                            What's your
  understanding of what's included in the bundled code
```

```
let's just say for IOP?
 2
                  You can include the individual, the
  urine is -- depends on the insurance company, I
  think, so you can include the individual on the
  bundle code.
 5
                  What else?
 6
         0.
                  I'm not sure. I don't know.
 7
         Α.
 8
         0.
                  So where does your understanding come
  from, you know, that you -- so I guess let me take a
10
  step back.
             When you say you can bill the bundle
  code plus additional services?
12
         Α.
                  So when the insurance company sees
13
  the bundle code, right, so they see additional
14 services with the bundle code, they unbundle the H
15 and that's how it's separated.
16
         Q.
                  Where does your knowledge of the
17
  billing, where does that come from?
18
                  Talking to them.
         Α.
19
                  To who?
         Q.
20
                  To my director of operations.
         Α.
21
                  And from talking to anybody else?
         0.
22
         Α.
                  No.
2.3
                  Do you talk -- do you personally ever
         Q.
24
  interact with insurance companies?
2.5
         Α.
                  No.
```

```
1
                  Does anyone from Kingsway personally
         Q.
2
  interact with the insurance companies?
3
        Α.
                  Yes.
                  Who is that?
4
        Q.
5
         Α.
                  Director of operations.
6
         0.
                  Only -- that same woman who does
7
  everything else?
8
                         She interacts with them and
         Α.
                  Yeah.
  she interacts with, you know, with the insurance
10
  people.
11
                  Did Jessica Mercier do that too prior
         Q.
12
  to her leaving?
13
         Α.
                  No.
14
                  Now I want to direct your attention
         Q.
  to AR-85S which is now on the screen and also in
16
  front of you. This is just one example of services
17
  for one client that the Commission found that
  Kingsway Recovery billed the health insurance
18
19
  company. So as you can see on March 11, 2019, looks
20
  like intensive outpatient treatment was billed under
21
  procedure code H0015. On the same date, this is for
  the same patient, procedure code 80305 was billed
23 for urine drug screening and 90834 was billed for
24 individual psychotherapy for 45 minutes. We talked
  about H0015 being the bundled code; is that correct?
```

```
1
         Α.
                  Correct.
 2
                  And then the individual
         Q.
  psychotherapy, which looks here to be procedure code
  90834, would that fall -- is it your understanding
 5
   that that would fall under that bundled code?
                  If you're bundling the services, yes.
 6
 7
                  Now, here if what you're looking at,
         0.
8
  let's just say AR-85S, that is for, you know, one
  patient and they are billing for that bundled code
  and then also for the individual psychotherapy and
10
11
  then urines, which you said is under the insurance
12
  company, is what's depicted here billed twice?
13
         Α.
                  No.
14
                  So the individual psychotherapy isn't
         Q.
15
  included in the H0015 bundle code?
16
                  Correct.
         Α.
17
         Q.
                  How do you know that?
18
         Α.
                  By speaking with the director of
19
  operations who spoke with -- who speaks with the
20
  insurance companies. I'm just giving you the
  information that I'm getting from the insurance
21
22
  companies through somebody.
2.3
                  Do you know which insurance company
         Q.
24
  she spoke to?
2.5
         Α.
                  No, but I would think it -- it's all
```

```
of them.
1
2
                  All of them being?
 3
        Α.
                  The ones that we utilize.
4
                  Like, for example, I don't think we
        0.
5
  went through which ones, specific ones?
                  Aetna, Horizon, CIGNA.
6
        Α.
7
                  So your understanding is the director
        0.
  of operations reached out to the insurance companies
  and asked them if that was an okay way to bill?
10
        Α.
                  Yeah, it really is, when you have --
  when you bill like that, it causes an administrative
12
  complexity, but even like what you guys were saying,
13
  if you're bundling the code, let's say you just have
14
  the one code up there and you just send out the
15
  H0015, okay? That's kind of doing it on the back
  end, so the bundled code would be the only service
17
  that you would send in to the billing, okay?
                                                  That's
18
  doing it on the back end, so a year later the
19
  insurance company could call us up and go now we
20
  want to see that service and we have to send them
21
  medical records. Actually the way they were doing
  it was showing it up front.
2.3
                  Okay, so you're saying if it's
        Q.
  depicted the way it's depicted on AR-85S, that it
  isn't billed twice, that that record is just showing
```

```
that an individual psychotherapy session was
  included in the bundle billing?
3
                 No, no, it's separated.
        Α.
                                           It's
              It's not included. I'm just saying for
  separated.
  reporting wise -- so think about this. If you have
  an H0015 code, okay, and you are -- you are sending
  that one code out, well, the insurance company's
  going to want to know later that you were doing your
  individual session, so they are going to want the
10
  records later. But the way that Reliabill was doing
  it was actually separating them up front, and that
12
  is done because we are out of network.
                                          There's no
  contract with the insurance, and it's -- but it's an
13
14
  administrative complexity. It causes, you know, it
15
  causes some administrative problems.
16
        Q.
                  So was Kingsway getting paid, you
17
  know, typically for a bundled billing code in
18
  addition to, you know, like for this example,
19
  individual psychotherapy session?
20
                 Let me give you a breakdown of like
        Α.
  an amounts breakdown. So let's say the H0015, if it
  was just billed by itself would let's just say they
23 reimbursed $100, okay? They reimbursed $100 just on
24
  that one code. The way they did it was, the H0015
2.5
  would get $70. The drug screen would get $10, and
```

```
the individual session would get $30, $20 and that
1
2
  would equal out to $100.
3
                  So where is the administrative
         Q.
  complexity? I'm trying to make sure I fully
4
5
  understand what you're saying.
6
                  So they pay all different amounts,
7
  the insurance company. I'm just giving you an
  estimate, so instead of having $100 in one shot, you
  would have 70, 20 and ten.
10
         Q.
                  So and they --
11
         Α.
                  They cap them.
                                   The insurance company
12
  is only going to pay this much, and they'll cap you
13
  on that reimbursement.
14
                  So -- okay, so just so I'm clear, and
         Q.
  under intensive outpatient H0015 bundled code, an
  individual psychotherapy session is not included
  within that code?
17
18
                  I think you are getting confused.
         Α.
19
                  I am. I want you to clarify.
         Q.
20
                  It's very complex.
         Α.
21
                  Can you answer that?
                                         That's not
         0.
  included within the code?
2.3
                  If you bill that code, that one code,
        Α.
24
  if you just billed one code, it is included.
2.5
                  But when you bill it twice, it's not?
         Q.
```

174

```
Α.
                  It's not billing it twice.
1
  separating the code. It's separating. They are
  unbundled, so that right there is an unbundled H0015
  as we see it there. It's unbundled. H0015 can be
  bundled or unbundled.
                  Okay. What is the code that can only
6
        0.
7
  be bundled?
8
        Α.
                  That code, that code is the bundle
  code for IOP.
                 It's an IOP session group.
10
                  So what's included in it besides IOP
        Q.
11
  session group?
12
                  Umm, I'm not sure what other things
13 are included in the IOP session, but I think the
14 urine is included sometimes or not, but it's a
15 group, so that's a group. So they are paying for
16
  the group.
17
                  So your understanding is that H0015
        Q.
  is simply group session?
18
19
        Α.
                  Yes.
20
                 For intensive outpatient?
        Q.
21
                  For group session. If you bundled it
        Α.
22 it could be individual session, it could be maybe a
23 urine.
24
                  So here you're saying because it
  breaks it out beneath the bundled code, it's not
```

```
bundled?
1
2
                  Yes. So the insurance company would
  see it and goes look, there's multiple services on
           We are going to unbundle that code.
  one day.
5
                  So the payment that Kingsway would
        Q.
  receive would not be for the bundled code amount.
  The insurance company would know and just pay out
  for the group session amount?
9
        Α.
                 Yeah, they would pay out the same
10
  thing.
11
                 Now, was this practice, now this was
        Q.
12
  from 2019, this example in AR-85S. Once the billing
  was brought in-house, did it continue to be done in
13
14
  the same manner with billing of the bundled code but
15 unbundled also?
16
                  I believe so. But I think that, you
17
  know, they were learning more and more from the
  insurance company. That's how you work with the
18
19
  insurance companies. It's very complex to deal with
20
  them. You just learn from them and being out of
  network, there's no like contract that says you have
  to do in this or this. When you're not in contract,
23
  you bill basically the way you want to bill.
24
                  So it's your testimony that the
  billing if it was done in the manner that it shown
```

```
on AR-85S, that that's appropriate?
1
2
                  It's appropriate and the only problem
3
  with it is it causes administrative complexities.
4
                  Now have you heard from insurance
         Q.
5
  companies about any issues with the way that
  Kingsway was billing?
6
7
        Α.
                  No.
8
         0.
                  Have you -- okay. At any point, you
  have not?
10
                  Um-umm.
        Α.
11
         Q.
                  Okay.
12
        Α.
                  No.
13
                  MS. CIALINO: Commissioners, any
14
  questions based on that?
15
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: I think I just
  want to clarify as well. So in the example that you
17
  gave of the hundred dollar reimbursement, are you
18
  suggesting -- you were talking about for the line
19
  that has the code, the bundle code, are you
20
  suggesting that the insurance company would not have
21
  given any reimbursement amount for the second two
  codes that are listed here?
2.3
                  THE WITNESS: No, the way that they
24
  did it --
2.5
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
```

```
1
                  THE WITNESS: The way Reliabill did
2
  it, instead of giving $100 just for the bundle H0015
  IOP group, they would give the group $70.
                                               They
  would give the urine screen $10 and then they would
  give the individual session $20. So it would equal
  out to the same, and if they do overpay at any point
7
  or anything, they just take it back.
8
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       I'm just curious,
  how do you know that that's what the insurance
10
  company is doing as opposed to independently
11
  levaluating each line item that's being submitted as
12
  a billed service?
13
                  THE WITNESS:
                                Because when they see
14
  it separate, when they see multiple services and an
15
  H code, they unbundle it.
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       But if they --
17
                  THE WITNESS:
                               On the same day -- I'm
18
  sorry.
19
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       Right.
                                               If they
20
  unbundle but also have two other items here that are
  being billed separately, are you saying that they
  lignore the two items that are billed separately that
2.3
  are not under a bundle code?
24
                  THE WITNESS: What do you mean by
25
  ignore?
```

```
1
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Would they still
2
  reimburse the second and third line that we see here
3
  on AR-85?
4
                  THE WITNESS:
                                They would reimburse at
5
  the lower rate like I'm saying, so the hundred,
6
  -- I mean the 70, 20 and ten instead of one $100
7
  bundle.
8
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      I'm just curious
  based on your understanding, what is the purpose of
10
  a bundled code if you're still going to bill the
  individual component as well as the bundled code?
12
                  THE WITNESS: It's administratively
13
  much sounder.
                 It's easier to do that with the --
14 with billing. It's much easier, it is.
  administratively very helpful.
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Do you have any
17
  other questions, Commissioner Reina?
18
                  COMMISSIONER REINA:
                                       No.
19
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      No other
20
  questions from commissioners. Thank you, counsel.
  BY MS. CIALINO:
21
22
        0.
                  Now, do you know if Kingsway, when
23
  the insurance companies actually paid Kingsway, when
  the billing was done in this manner with the bundled
  code and then the other, like the, for example, the
```

```
individual psychotherapy and the urine testing
  broken out like that, do you know if Kingsway was
  paid twice for that individual psychotherapy, paid
  once within the bundle billing and another time
5
  individually?
6
        Α.
                  No.
7
                  You don't know or you know they were
        0.
8
  not?
9
        Α.
                  They were not, because it's -- when
10
  they see it, when the bill comes in and they see the
11
  three different codes, three different services that
12
  are rendered, they just disperse it that way.
13
                  Do you personally review the paid
14
  claims of the insurance companies?
15
        Α.
                  No.
16
        Q.
                  Do you go back and review what
17
  Kingsway submitted to determine if Kingsway was paid
18
  in full?
19
        Α.
                  No, because it's so -- the insurance
20
  companies paid so much. It's different in
21
  everything. It's so complex, like you have
  different disbursements, you have different
23 reimbursements coming in from different insurance
  companies for different services rendered.
  back would be -- it's very hard to go back and do
```

```
all that stuff.
1
2
                  Does Kingsway ever go back to
3
  linsurance companies and, you know, I quess, not
  fight with them, but, you know, tell them that they
  owe you more money than they paid?
6
                  Yes, we can negotiate, so let's say
7
  we are billing out $1,000 for a service and they
  come back at 130, we can negotiate that up and we
  may get 250.
10
         Q.
                  Who handles those negotiations?
11
         Α.
                  The billing, billing team.
12
         Q.
                  Have you ever done it personally?
13
        Α.
                  No.
14
                  Called an insurance company?
         Q.
15
        Α.
                  No.
16
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                 Commissioners, any
17
  additional questions?
18
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                       No.
19
                  MS. CIALINO: Mr. DeSimone, obviously
20
  we've been here for a few hours. Your attorney
21
  submitted a lot of questions to me previously, and I
  tried to incorporate them all in, but I wanted to
23 give you an opportunity to, you know, say, give a
  statement or if there was anything that you think I
  missed that you think is important that we be aware
```

```
of, I want to give you the opportunity to do so.
1
2
                  THE WITNESS: You want to know like
3
  anything about
4
                  MS. CIALINO: You can talk to your
5
  attorney first, if you wanted to make a statement.
6
                  THE WITNESS: Let me talk to my
7
  attorney.
8
                  (A discussion takes place off the
9
  record.)
10
                  MR. BROOKS:
                               First, Ms. Cialino, I
11
  just would like to say thank you.
                                      We did present
  you with a number of different questions we thought
13
  would be appropriate to ask, and you found a way,
  lagain, as you did with Ms. DeSimone, incorporate it
14
  all, we appreciate not only the professional
16
  courtesy but, you know, you taking -- making the
17
  effort to do that. Thank you for that.
                                            We have
18
  nothing further in terms of questions.
19
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER: Mr. Brooks, could
20
  you turn your mic on?
21
                               Sorry, madam chair.
                  MR. BROOKS:
  did ask -- Mr. DeSimone did have a brief statement
23 he would like to read into the record and you had
24 indicated he would have the opportunity to do so.
  Other than that, we thank you for your thoroughness
```

```
and professional courtesy of working in the
2
  questions, and we just have a brief statement,
3
  closing statement.
                 MS. CIALINO:
                              Go ahead.
4
5
                  THE WITNESS: The field of addiction
  treatment is a critical one in New Jersey and
6
7
  elsewhere. I was a slave to addiction for more than
  22 years.
             Addiction stole my youth and much of my
  adulthood, and it devastated my entire family.
10
  nearly killed me. My wife Michelle and I moved in
  with family for seven years because we had to work
12
  tirelessly to turn our situation around.
                                             I was a
13
  full-time student at the age of 40 and Michelle had
14
  to work three jobs. But by the grace of God, AA, my
15
  determination, and treatment centers like Kingsway,
16
  I recovered.
17
                  Please understand that Kingsway is
18
  not just a business to Michelle and me. Our mission
19
  is to help others be set free of the grips of
20
  addiction. It is our life's work. That is why we
  take allegations of misconduct so seriously.
22
                 We have always sought to operate
23 Kingsway using industry best practices and are
  motivated solely by what is paramount for the
  treatment of our patients. As Kingsway's business
```

```
operations have grown, we have strived to make any
  adjustments necessary to continue to achieve these
  objectives. In the regard, Kingsway welcomes
  oversight and any regulatory changes necessary to
5
  ensure that the addiction treatment industry as a
  whole continues to achieve these objectives.
6
7
                  Kingsway has helped many individuals
8
  overcome their struggle with addiction, and I
  proud of what we have accomplished to date.
                                                Guided
  by our own personal experiences, the lessons we have
11 learned, and a steadfast commitment to our mission,
12
  we will continue to make every effort possible to
13
  carry on the work of treating addiction and saving
14 lives.
15
                  Thank you.
16
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Thank you, Mr.
17
  DeSimone.
             Anything further, counsel.
18
                  MS. CIALINO: No, I'm just like to
19 move into evidence AR-85 and AR-88.
20
                  (Exhibit AR-85 and AR-88, are received
  into evidence.)
22
                 MS. CIALINO:
                               And with that, you can
23
  step down and I'd like to pass it back to the chair.
24
  Thank you for your testimony here today.
25
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      Thank you, Mr.
```

```
Thank you, Mr. Brooks.
1
  DeSimone.
2
                  MR. BROOKS:
                               Thank you, Madam Chair,
3
  I appreciate it.
4
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      I ask Executive
5
  Director Lackey, do you have any closing remarks?
                  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LACKEY:
6
  briefly, putting on any public display of our
  evidence is always a challenge, and once again I sit
  here very proud of the work that our staff has done.
  One of our former chairs used to call us the best
10
  and the brightest, and today, as in many days, you
12
  exemplify that. I want to say thanks to Lisa.
13
  Thanks you so much for the time and effort that you
14
  put in preparing for today. Your professionalism,
  your ability, your analytical work was flawless, and
  you stand on the shoulders of your team again.
17
  team has again supported you, and they have made us
  all very proud today, so thank you for your hard
18
19
  work.
20
                  MS. CIALINO:
                                Thank you.
21
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      While I no longer
  wanted to be a former chair that says our staff is
2.3
  the best and the brightest, the current chair is
  also saying that our staff is certainly the best and
  the brightest. I do want to reiterate Director
```

```
Lackey's commendation of our staff led by Counsel
  Cialino, who did an outstanding job. Thank you for
  representing not only the Commission but the State
  of New Jersey in the manner that you did today as
  well as in our previous hearing as well as every day
6
  that you show up to SCI.
7
                  I want to also just recognize our
8
  deputy executive director, chief counsel as well.
  Thank you very much for all of your hard work,
10 Marian Galietta. And Commissioner Reina, any
11
  closing comments for you?
12
                 COMMISSIONER REINA:
                                      No, thank you,
13
  Chair.
14
                  CHAIRWOMAN BREWER:
                                      On behalf of my
  fellow commissioners, I do want to just continue to
  thank all of you who attended today as we reconvene
16
17
  our public hearings, those that are watching online
18
  and those that are live as well.
19
                  Our work continues.
                                       It's not over
20
  with this public hearing. Our investigation still
21
  continues. We are concerned about, you know, issues
  that we have seen and wanting to improve the
2.3
  addiction rehabilitation industry and make it less
  prone to abuse. So at the conclusion of this public
  hearing, our work will continue.
```

```
I also want to thank our
1
2
  investigatory staff as well, our administrative
  staff, those who you don't see here on the platform
  when we have these public hearings, but the entire
  staff and our communications team as well all coming
  together in order not only put on these public
  hearings but to continue to work which culminates
  also in our written report which will be forthcoming
  as well.
10
                  So our hearing is adjourned for now,
  and you will hear from us again in the future.
12
  Thank you all. We are adjourned.
13
                  (Whereupon the proceedings were
14
  concluded at 2:05 p.m.)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
2.3
24
2.5
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CERTIFICATE 1 2 3 I, DONNA BRUNCK, a Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey, authorized to administer oaths pursuant to R.S.41:2-2, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of 7 the public hearing that was taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date herein before set forth. 10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of 12 any of the parties or attorneys to this action, and 13 that I am not financially interested in the action. 14 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the within transcript format complies with Rule NJ ADC 15 13:43-5.9. 16 17 18 19 Donna Brunck, CCR 20 License No. 30XI00148700 21 22 2.3 24 2.5

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