



Sheriff Larry Campbell

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

December 1, 2004

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Rod Holliman
Group Vice President
Prison Health Services, Inc.
105 Westpark Drive, Suite 200
Brentwood, TN 37027

RE: Problem Regarding Psychiatrist Position

Dear Rod:

I am writing to make you aware of a problem that I am experiencing regarding the psychiatrist position Prison Health Services (PHS) agreed to staff at the Leon County Jail. The Public Defender's Office and several local defense attorneys are complaining that their clients who have mental health issues are not being seen by a psychiatrist in a timely manner and therefore, are not receiving necessary medications.

According to Tish Wright, PHS's Health Care Manager, the psychiatrist PHS hired to provide mental health services at the Jail, Dr. John Mason, lives in Panama City, Florida and only travels to Tallahassee on Thursdays and Fridays. Dr. Mason is at the Jail for six hours on Thursdays and for six hours on Fridays for a total of twelve hours each week.

The fact that Dr. Mason sees inmates only on Thursday and Friday is presenting a reoccurring problem. Should an inmate be booked into the Jail on Friday night, that inmate would have to wait until the following Thursday to be seen by the psychiatrist. It is my understanding that PHS will not administer medications, even if the inmate has medications with him/her at the time of booking, until the inmate is seen by the PHS doctor. Herein lies the problem.

In February of this year, Bobbie Homer provided me with an e-mail as part of a follow up to a meeting we had where we discussed several problems that PHS agreed to address. Ms. Homer started out by stating, "Pursuant to the attached plan of action below, I am providing this correspondence as an update regarding our progress toward meeting your expectations". Item number 2., stated as follows:

We have successfully recruited and hired a fully credentialed local psychiatrist, Dr. John Mason, who has been working at the site for the last month. This has added stability and continuity to our mental health program.



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Dr. Mason is not a local psychiatrist, nor does it appear that he adding stability and continuity to the delivery of mental health services at the Jail. I am being summoned by local judges to appear in court to defend the current practice. Even though PHS provides legal staff to file responses in such situations, it is my name that is continually appearing on the court documents.

The purpose of my letter is not to tell you how to remedy this problem, but to make you aware of it and to ask that you take the necessary steps to see that it is not a reoccurring problem in the future.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, or should you desire to speak directly with me, please do not hesitate to call at (850) 922-3456.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Campbell  
Sheriff, Leon County, Florida

LOC/ag

cc: Phillip Hoelscher, President  
Alliance Medical Management