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Subject: Fatal shooting at mental health clinic

Doug—

Information is very preliminary, but this is what we now know.

Around noon today at the Chesterfield clinic of the Department's Tri-county Community Mental Health Center, a patient who was brought to the mental health center by an officer with Probation, Parole and Pardon Services was shot and killed within the clinic by the PPP officer. Local law enforcement responded, and SLED is now on the scene [as are media.]

The deceased patient was an individual who was found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity of Burglary in May of 2008, and committed to the agency's forensic hospital for a period of time. He was conditionally released by the Court of General Sessions in June, 2009. His name is Julius Freeman.

All persons conditionally released following a finding of NGRI are followed by PPP.

Pursuant to the conditions of his release, he has been receiving treatment for his mental illness his psychiatric illness at the Center, and has additionally been followed by the agency's NGRI outreach clinic, since his conditional release from the hospital. According to the preliminary information, he was compliant with treatment and keeping almost all of his appointments. We are still trying to gather information regarding as to the reason PPP brought him to the clinic today.

The patient was seeing his psychiatrist, with the PPP agent sitting outside of the office, when staff and the officer heard the patient become loud and argumentative. The agent responded immediately, and the patient had begun assaulting his doctor. Staff followed their training and went on "lockdown" – basically locking themselves and other patients of the clinic behind office doors and calling 911. Staff reported hearing fight spill into the hallway, and shortly afterward the gunshot which apparently killed the patient. Law enforcement responded promptly. The physician apparently was struck in the head and had abrasions. He initially declined treatment but was talked into going to the hospital ED for assessment. We don't know his condition, but believe he was not seriously injured. No other staff or patients were injured.

I'll keep you posted as information becomes available.

--Mark

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