

From: Soura, Christian
To: Godfrey, RobRobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov
Mayer, DougDougMayer@gov.sc.gov
Pitts, TedTedPitts@gov.sc.gov
Date: 5/31/2013 5:12:35 PM
Subject: Re: from Tim Waller, WYFF-TV

Jamal's in the Correspondence Office in Wade Hampton, and I'm sure he's gone by now. I guess we'll have to try to track him down Monday AM. The other agencies referenced aren't in the cabinet, but I guess we can try to get some answers from the agency heads/press contacts there too?

This particular case is new to me.

CLS

From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 04:47 PM
To: Mayer, Doug; Pitts, Ted; Soura, Christian
Subject: Fw: from Tim Waller, WYFF-TV

Guidance?

From: Waller, Tim L [mailto:twaller@hearst.com]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 04:42 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Subject: from Tim Waller, WYFF-TV

Rob,

I hope you're doing well. Sorry to email so late on a Friday afternoon, but I didn't want the weekend to pass without telling about a story I'm working on. It has to do with the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and a young man in Greenville who's fallen through the cracks of the mental health system.

Here's the abbreviated version:

There's a 21 year old man who's been living in the emergency room of Greenville Memorial Hospital since October of last year. He's both mentally retarded and schizophrenic, but there is nothing wrong with him medically. He's living there because he has nowhere else to go. Doctors, nurses, even security personnel are bending the rules by letting him stay there. They've done everything in their power to find him a group home, but were turned away by every agency they've called.

Dr. Teresa Oldson, a senior ER physician, has done an interview with me and laid out this timeline:

- Â· First called Greenville Mental Health Department and was told because the patient is mentally retarded, it was a case for Greenville Disabilities and Special Needs
- Â· Next called Greenville Disabilities and Special Needs and was told because he's schizophrenic, it's a case for Greenville Mental Health.
- Â· Next tried to call Dr. Beverly Buscemi at state DDSN (made 5 calls over a period of days) and never received a call back
- Â· Finally called Governor Haley's office and spoke to someone named Jamal. She said Jamal had helped

her before with another, unrelated case and agreed to help out again, but there was no follow-up

For me, the reporter covering this story, the failure of the mental health system is as interesting as the fact thereâ€™s a man living in the emergency room of a major hospital. Iâ€™m now seeking comment from all the agencies above. In the meantime, Iâ€™m wondering if thereâ€™s anything your office can do to assist in finding this young man a home.

Please let me know your thoughts on this story. Iâ€™ll be in the office Monday if youâ€™d like to discuss. My cell is 864-313-1108. I can also provide more information about the patient, as well as put you in touch with Dr. Teresa Oldson.

Thanks Rob!

Tim Waller

