

Summary of Investigation

Case: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SS# ([REDACTED])None

Agency: Orange Grove Center

Case #: E01 10 490

Investigator: Jeffery P. Galyon

Date of Report: 01/07/02 Note: submission of this report was delayed due to the autopsy report being received on 12/18/01. After results were received additional interviews were required.

Initial Allegation

On 10/24/01 staff went into the room of [REDACTED] to wake him. Staff found him unresponsive and not breathing. Staff contacted E.M.S. who arrived and pronounced him dead.

Conclusion

It is unclear whether the death of [REDACTED] was due to staff not giving him his medications. It is clear that staff neglected [REDACTED] by causing his medications not to be given promptly and as ordered. A violation of Tennessee State Licensure Rule 0940-5-6 is substantiated for neglect.

Late Reporting: This incident was reported within guidelines.

Recommendation

- A. It is recommended Agency Management advise the regional office of what, if any, disciplinary action is taken as a result of this investigation.
- B. It is recommended that Agency Management develop guidelines to assure that staff will not discontinue medications on their own. Relief staff should have the means to questions a discontinued medication that has been taken for years.
- C. While it is probable that [REDACTED] had expired prior to Ventura finding him; staff should not assume that someone is dead. It is recommended that Agency Management develop guidelines to assure that staff immediately begin CPR when a person is found to be not breathing. Staff should then immediately call 911.
- D. It is recommended that the Deputy Commissioner consider issuing a Mortality Alert concerning the need for agencies to 1) consider

conducting emergency drills with staff or otherwise instruct staff to immediately initiate emergency procedures and 2) instruct staff to not withhold medications unless ordered by a physician.

- E. The Agency is directed to contact the East Tennessee Regional Office via mail within two weeks of receipt of this report. The agency must indicate what actions it intends to take regarding the conclusions and recommendations listed within this and their own report. Correspondence should be sent to Regional Director John Craven , at 5908 Lyons View Drive, (Greenbriar Cottage), Knoxville, Tennessee 37919.