

RE: JOHN DOE

Psychiatric Security Review Board
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MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

On August 5, 2005, the Psychiatric Security Review Board (Board) held a hearing to review the status of John Doe, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-585, and to consider the Application for Temporary Leave, as filed by Connecticut Valley Hospital, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-587.

John Doe was committed to the jurisdiction of the Board on November 24, 1987 by the New Haven Superior Court for a period not to exceed 20 years after he was acquitted by reason of mental disease or defect of the charge of Assault in the First Degree.

At the hearing, the parties appearing were State's Attorney Michael Dearington, representing the New Haven Judicial District; John Doe, the acquittee, represented by Assistant Public Defender Suzanne L. McAlpine. The witness was Paul Amble, M.D., of the Division of Forensic Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Paul Amble, M.D., Chief Consulting Forensic Psychiatrist, testified as follows: Since Mr. Doe's last hearing before the Board in April 2004, he has been attending the Friendship Club at the Rushford Program in Meriden and the Veteran's Administration (VA) at West Haven. There have been no reported problems with him attending groups and engaging in treatment. The treatment team has been working with Mr. Doe regarding his finances and how he budgets his money, as he has been known to give away about a pack and a half of cigarettes per day. He has also been known to supply donuts and coffee for his groups at the VA and for fellow patients at Connecticut Valley Hospital. Since Mr. Doe will be beginning overnights, he will need to be more careful about budgeting his money. The proposed temporary leave plan is for Mr. Doe to move from day treatment to overnights on a gradual basis.

Upon recent mental status examination, Mr. Doe presented appropriately dressed and groomed. His affect was blunted but he described his mood as good. He also described his sleep, appetite and energy as good. He denied feelings of helplessness, hopelessness or worthlessness. Mr. Doe denied suicidal or homicidal ideation. He denies symptoms consistent with Schizophrenia, which includes paranoia, auditory and visual hallucinations. He has not endorsed having substantial symptoms of anxiety or a mood disorder for quite some time. When asked about his psychiatric illness, he is able to state his diagnoses and list his symptoms as withdrawal, paranoia and suspiciousness - thinking that people are out to hurt him and not trusting people. He does not focus on his need to have a regimented lifestyle, but has shown that he can adapt to unexpected changes in his schedule over the past two and one half years.

Mr. Doe's current psychiatric diagnoses are: On Axis I, Schizophrenia, Paranoid Type, Episodic with Interepisode Residual Symptoms and Alcohol Abuse in a Controlled Environment. He takes the psychiatric medication Clozaril.

In conclusion, Dr. Amble testified: The inpatient team at the hospital and his community treaters believe that the proposed temporary leave application is a reasonably safe plan for Mr. Doe's continued transition to the community. Mr. Doe needs to remain a patient at Connecticut Valley Hospital, should not be released on conditional release and should remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.

The administrative record indicates that Mr. Doe has remained clinically stable and engaged in treatment. Risk factors include paranoid delusions, limited coping skills and a history of alcohol abuse. Mr. Doe has no symptoms of paranoia and has remained abstinent from alcohol and illicit substances. He has continued to make gradual steady progress in treatment and has received good reports from his community treatment team. Mr. Doe had limited insight regarding his ability to tolerate stress or a change in routine without becoming irritable and rigid; therefore, a gradual transition to overnights in the community is warranted.

Based on the evidence presented, the Board finds the following facts: John Doe continues to have a psychiatric illness that requires care, custody and treatment in his current inpatient setting. John Doe has made sufficient progress utilizing day temporary leaves to the community to warrant temporary leave with overnights on a gradual basis. John Doe would not constitute a danger to himself or others if granted temporary leave.

Based on the preceding facts, the Board finds that John Doe is a person who should remain confined. He has a psychiatric disability to the extent that his discharge or conditional release would constitute a danger to himself or others. Further, the Board finds that John Doe would not pose a danger to himself or others if allowed temporary leave under the conditions specified in this order.

ORDER

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-584, 17a-586 and 17a-587, the Board hereby ORDERS:

1. John Doe shall remain confined at the Dutcher Service of Connecticut Valley Hospital for the purposes of care, custody and treatment.
2. The Dutcher Service of Connecticut Valley Hospital shall report every six months to the Board on the mental condition, mental status, and course of treatment of John Doe, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-586. The next such report is due no later than December 31, 2005.
3. Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) may, if deemed clinically appropriate, grant temporary leave to John Doe for the purposes of participating in community-based treatment, live in the community and enhance and/or maintain relationships with friends in the community. The only temporary leave order in effect is contained within this order. CVH shall terminate this or any other such temporary leave if notified by the Board to do so.

Temporary Leave Conditions

Frequency

- When not staying overnight, John Doe may utilize this temporary leave up to eight hours per day, up to two days per week for activities at Rushford Behavioral Health (RBH)
- When not staying overnight, John Doe may utilize this temporary leave up to eight hours per day, up to three days per week for activities at the Veteran's Administration (VA)
- For overnights, John Doe be in the community up to seven nights per week, as clinically indicated

- For activities with Jack Platter, John Doe may be in the community up to three hours per day, one time per month

Duration

This temporary leave shall last a minimum of six months

Location

During this temporary leave, John Doe may participate in and attend activities at:

- RBH, Meriden
- VA, West Haven
- Within the state of Connecticut with community staff or with Jack Platter
- Within the general Meriden area when participating in leisure activities in his own custody

Supervision

- When participating in treatment activities, John Doe shall have staff available to him on the premises
- When visiting with Jack Platter, Jack Platter shall provide supervision to John Doe at all times

CVH Responsibilities

CVH shall maintain oversight of this phase of temporary leave, with responsibilities that include but are not limited to:

- Providing clinical assessment before and after each use of temporary leave, then once per week when staying overnight in the community seven nights per week
- Arranging a call in time for John Doe, at least once daily
- Approving John Doe's use of temporary leave with Jack Platter in conjunction with his temporary leave supervisor when residing in the community seven days per week
- Approving a community volunteer job in conjunction with community providers, when clinically appropriate
- Assisting John Doe in disclosing his legal status to employer and orienting supervisors once a volunteer job is obtained
- Performing drug/alcohol urinalysis upon return from temporary leave, at least once weekly
- Providing transportation to and from CVH and activities, as needed
- Providing direct observation of John Doe's medication administration when he is not staying overnight in the community
- Submitting a written report to the Board prior to the completion of this temporary leave, which shall include:
 - John Doe's progress and compliance with this temporary leave
 - CVH's opinion of whether John Doe is a candidate for conditional release
 - Attachment of monthly written reports submitted by John Doe's temporary leave supervisor
 - Application for termination or modification of this temporary leave if he is not a candidate for conditional release

RBH Responsibilities

Responsibilities shall include but are not limited to:

- Monitoring of John Doe's compliance with this temporary leave

- Providing transportation to and from CVH and activities, as needed
- Performing random drug/alcohol screening, as indicated
- Providing staff supervised trips within the state of Connecticut, as scheduled
- Reporting to CVH, as necessary
- Providing groups at least twice weekly
- Providing vocational counseling, as scheduled
- Approving a community volunteer job in conjunction with CVH, when clinically appropriate
- Supervising John Doe's use of the Internet
- Providing on-site 24 hours per day, seven days per week supervised apartment/residential services through the Community Based Initiative, Harrison Place Program, including but not limited to:
 - Providing direct observation of John Doe's medication administration when residing in his community apartment
 - Monitoring medications by counts, medication boxes, etc.
 - Providing budgeting assistance
 - Providing group counseling
 - Providing medical assistance
 - Providing a residents' support group
 - Providing structured recreation
 - Visiting John Doe in his apartment at least daily
 - Providing a sign-out/sign-in log
- Temporary Leave Supervisor responsibilities shall include but are not limited to:
 - Conducting face-to-face supervision meetings with John Doe at least once weekly
 - Reporting to CVH via telephone, as needed
 - Meeting with John Doe's CVH treatment team at least once monthly
 - Contacting all service providers to determine their compliance with agreed upon services and John Doe's compliance with temporary leave at least once weekly
 - Visiting John Doe's apartment at least once weekly
 - Providing a volunteer job twice weekly
 - Approving visits with Jack Platter in conjunction with CVH when John Doe is residing in the community seven days per week
 - Verifying John Doe's attendance at community substance abuse support meetings at least once weekly
 - Submitting a monthly written report to CVH addressing John Doe's compliance and adjustment to this temporary leave, with a copy to the DMHAS Conditional Release Service Unit

VA Responsibilities

Responsibilities shall include but are not limited to:

- Monitoring John Doe's compliance with this temporary leave when participating in activities at the VA
- Providing psychosocial and community support activities at least three to five times weekly
- Providing individual therapy at least every three weeks
- Supervising John Doe's use of the Internet
- Providing telephone contact with CVH at least monthly
- Performing random drug/alcohol screens, as needed

- Providing transportation to and from CVH and activities pertaining to the VA, as necessary

Jack Platter Responsibilities

Responsibilities shall include but are not limited to:

- Providing supervision for John Doe when utilizing visits
- Providing transportation for John Doe when utilizing visits
- Reporting to CVH and John Doe's temporary leave supervisor planned activities prior to using this temporary leave

John Doe's Responsibilities and Authorizations

- Comply with all conditions of this temporary leave
- Participate in all treatment activities as described in this temporary leave
- Participate in any other treatment programs as recommended by CVH, RBH and the VA
- Cooperate with all community providers and CVH as it relates to agency rules, regulations and recommendations
- Participate in a substance abuse program as deemed appropriate by CVH and other community providers at least once weekly, and provide proof of attendance at community meetings to temporary leave supervisor
- Call-in to CVH at least one time per day, as designated by CVH
- Discuss plans with CVH and temporary leave supervisor prior to use of leave with Jack Platter
- Return to his apartment by 8:00 p.m., unless otherwise approved by his RBH temporary leave supervisor
- Utilize a sign-in/sign-out sheet at his residence
- Obey all laws and promptly report to CVH if he has been arrested for, charged with or questioned by any law enforcement agent regarding any matter
- Take all medication prescribed by CVH
- Inform any community provider of a change in mood or behavior
- May participate in leisure activities in his own custody in general Meriden area
- May participate in leisure activities with community staff and/or Jack Platter within the state of Connecticut
- May utilize a VA shuttle bus in his own custody
- May utilize American Medical Response transportation in his own custody to travel between his residence in Meriden and the West Haven VA
- May utilize the Internet at RBH or VA

John Doe's Prohibitions and Restrictions

- Have no contact or communication with his victim or victim's family, including visiting or frequenting the place of their residence, work or crime scene, whether they are present or not
- Have no contact or communication with his sister, Virginia Wodrus
- Not take any prescription or nonprescription drugs unless prescribed by CVH
- Not leave the state of Connecticut
- Not use any alcoholic beverages
- Not enter any establishment where the primary purpose of that establishment is the sale of alcohol
- Not own, use, possess, receive, transport or have access to any firearm, ammunition, defensive or other weapons

- Not knowingly associate or participate in any activities with persons known to carry weapons, which includes, but is not limited to, John Doe's treatment sites and residences of those with whom he visits while on temporary leave
- Not knowingly associate with persons who have been arrested for, charged with, convicted of or involved in any criminal activity without the prior authorization of CVH
- Not gamble, which includes government-sponsored lotteries, or enter any Casino grounds

Temporary Leave Supervisor Acknowledgment

The undersigned, Jack Platter, has received a copy of this temporary leave order from CVH, and has read or has had read to him the conditions of temporary leave for John Doe as it relates to his responsibilities.

CVH has informed the undersigned of his duties as a temporary leave supervisor. CVH has also provided information about John Doe, emergency procedures and the hospital rules governing temporary leave.

The signing of this order by the temporary leave supervisor and CVH confirms an understanding of the duties of a temporary leave supervisor. If the undersigned fails to comply with the stipulations as outlined in this order, he understands that John Doe may lose his temporary leave.

Date (Jack Platter, temporary leave supervisor)

Date (Representative, CVH)

CVH shall forward a copy of this signed page to the Board within 30 days of receipt of this order.

This Order may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Dated: August 3, 2005

Psychiatric Security Review Board

Ellen Weber, Executive Director
On Behalf of the
Psychiatric Security Review Board

pc State's Attorney Michael Dearington
Public Defender Monte P. Radler

Michael I. Lah, Ph.D.
Marilyn Smith-Cotterell, LCSW
DMHAS Conditional Release Service Unit
John Doe