



Mail Stop #306
14200 Green Timbers Way
Surrey, BC
V3T 6P3

Your file Votre référence

2014:JAG0122-000631

July 13, 2014

Our file Notre référence

Ms. Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner
Chief Coroner's Office
Metrotower II
Suite 800 - 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4N2

2011CP-0172

**RE: Jeremy David RICHARDSON (B: 1974-04-24)
 Coroner's Inquest into the Death of
 BCCS Case File #: 2014JAG0122-000631**

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

As a result of this tragic incident, we undertook a review of related RCMP Policy and wish to provide a response to the following Coroner's Jury recommendations directed to "RCMP E-Division".

1. That the RCMP reviews the existing policy in relation to allowing medical assessments by ambulance attendants where there is any indication of drug and alcohol intoxication.

Current RCMP Operational Policy located in HQ Chapter 19.2.1.1 requires a member to complete "an assessment of responsiveness before taking a person into custody." This chapter goes on further in 19.2.1.2.3 to direct that a member "seek immediate medical assistance and provide the necessary first aid when a person exhibits any of the following conditions: Is suspected of having alcohol *and/or* drug poisoning." Furthermore, 19.2.2.1.3 states that any person displaying any such symptoms should not be placed in an RCMP cell. Under Section 19.2.2,1.2/3 the prisoner would require immediate medical assistance, and a medical practitioner would have to declare the person medically fit for incarceration. Under Chapter 19.2.2,3, medical responders are granted immediate access and full medical information disclosure to a person in police custody who requires medical assistance. I have attached this RCMP Operational Policy to this correspondence for your reference.

2. That policy be amended to require that on the third physical check, if the prisoner has not moved or shown signs of life, a rousability assessment should be done and if the prisoner is unresponsive, the Watch Commander should be called to enter the cell and do a complete assessment.

Current National Policy under Chapter 19.3.4.5 requires the Guard to physically check each prisoner every fifteen minutes or less: "Check prisoners frequently and at irregular intervals to ensure their security and well-being. The intervals are to be no more than 15 minutes apart. These checks must be physical checks, not a check of the CCVE (Video monitoring). The use of CCVE may augment, but not replace physical checks." This physical check is performed to ensure that the prisoner is exhibiting normal breathing patterns if they are sleeping, and that they are not in medical distress. Under Chapter 19.3.4.5.2, all intoxicated prisoners must be awake or awakened and responsive a minimum of every four hours. Guards are directed to immediately request medical assistance and call for a member to attend if they cannot establish responsiveness. The term "Watch Commander" or "Supervisor" was not used in this chapter of National Policy as many small RCMP detachments may only have Constables working on shift at any given time.

I have been further advised by the Officer in Charge, Cowichan – Duncan RCMP Detachment their local policy after revision now mirrors that of what is codified above in National Policy. I have attached this RCMP Policy to this correspondence for your reference.

3. That the RCMP develop a short series of pertinent questions to ascertain upon booking a prisoner, if the subject in custody has any medical conditions or is under the influence of any drugs and/or alcohol.

Under Chapter 19.2.2.2, members are required to "document in their notebook any observations, medical concerns and any other pertinent information from the victim/witness at the scene." This policy then goes on to direct the member to "transfer this information, e.g. quantity of alcohol/drugs consumed, evidence of liquor bottles/drug paraphernalia observed, to form C-13-1 and the investigative file."

All prisoners taken into RCMP custody are booked into cells and the Prisoner Report Form C-13-1 is used to record the details of the original incident, the prisoner's personal effects, and the prisoner screening details. Under prisoner screening, several medical questions must be asked to complete the form, including any medications or drugs found on the prisoner, any signs of impairment by drugs, liquor or medication, any unusual actions such as belching or vomiting, any odour of liquor, slurred speech, state of mind, consciousness, and any medications required by prescription. I have attached this RCMP Policy, and the Form C-13-1, to this correspondence for your reference.

4. To send a detachment-wide broadcast to remind all members and guards that appropriate first aid including CPR be rendered immediately to a prisoner in a state of questionable consciousness prior to attendance of the BC Ambulance Service paramedics.

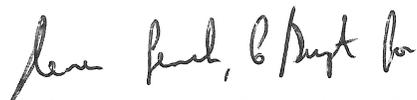
On 2014-03-31 and again on 2014-07-08, a message was sent to all employees at North Cowichan – Duncan RCMP Detachment, where it was stated:

Another reminder to all Members and Guards, in keeping with the findings of the Coroner's inquest into the detach of Jeremy Richardson in our custody in 2012, that appropriate first aid including CPR be rendered immediately to a prisoner in a state of questionable consciousness prior to the attendance of the BC Ambulance Service paramedics.

Where the finding refers to questionable consciousness, it is necessary as part of your scene assessment, to determine the level of consciousness of the victim, the appropriate first aid would be applied as a result of this assessment.

Thank you for bringing these recommendations to my attention. The RCMP is committed to learning from tragic incidents such as these and to developing policies and procedures that will help prevent their recurrence.

Respectfully,



A/Commr. Norm Lipinski, MBA, LLB, OOM
Criminal Operations Officer
E Division Core Policing



Royal
Canadian
Mounted
Police

Gendarmerie
royale
du
Canada

Security Classification/Designation
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Confidential

Your File - Votre référence

2012-0199-0017

Our File - Notre référence

2012-4413

November 17, 2014

Officer in Charge
North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment
6060 Canada Avenue
Duncan, BC
V9L 1V3

British Columbia Coroners Service
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metortower II
Suite 800 - 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4N2

Attention: Lisa Lapointe

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

**Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of:
RICHARDSON, Jeremy David
BCCS Case File # 2012-0199-0017**

Your correspondence dated September 22, 2014 refers.

I am pleased to report that the jury recommendations listed in the Verdict at Inquest have been incorporated into the North Cowichan/Duncan policy on the care and handling of prisoners.

Yours truly,


R.A. CARFANTAN, Insp.
Officer in Charge
North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment

6060 Canada Avenue
Duncan, B.C.
V9L 1V3

Phone: 250-748-5522
Fax: 250-746-2126

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NOV 24 2014

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Canada



175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8
www.cvrld.bc.ca

Office: 250.746.2500
Fax: 250.746.2513
Toll Free: 1.800.665.3955

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DEC 17 2014

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

December 9, 2014

Lisa LaPointe, Chief Coroner Province of BC
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower II, Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Re: Coroners Inquest Case File #2012-0199-0017 – Proposed Joint Review Committee

Dear Ms. LaPointe,

On behalf of the CVRD Board, and further to your letter dated September 22, 2014 regarding the above referenced case file, I am pleased to advise you that the Board reviewed this matter at its Closed Session meeting on November 12, 2014. Your recommendation that the CVRD, Mayors and Island Health Authority set up a joint review committee to determine the viability of a sobering centre and detox services resulted in the following two closed session resolutions being passed:

No. 14-547

It was moved and seconded that the Board respond to the BC Coroners Service with support for participating in the investigation of a sobering centre and detox services in the region with the recognition that the provision of such facilities and or services are the responsibility of the Province and Island Health Authority.

AND;

No. 14-548

It was moved and seconded that the creation of a joint review committee, as proposed by the BC Coroners Service to establish a sobering centre and detox services in the region, be referred to “Our Cowichan Communities Health Network” to see if they wish to facilitate such a committee.

Once the local health network has had an opportunity to discuss this matter, and the possible facilitation of, we will be in touch to discuss next steps. During the interim it would be appreciated if you could keep us informed of any other responses you may receive that may assist us in making our decision regarding involvement in the proposed joint review committee.

Sincerely,


J.E. Barry,
Corporate Secretary

JB/sc

Pc: Jon Lefebure, CVRD Board Chair (Mayor of North Cowichan)
Cindy Lise, Regional Facilitator – Our Cowichan Communities Health Network



175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8
www.cvrd.bc.ca

Office: 250.746.2500
Fax: 250.746.2513
Toll Free: 1.800.665.3955

March 24, 2015

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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Lisa LaPointe, Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower II, Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

Dear Ms. LaPointe,

Re: Joint Review Committee – Sobering Center and Detox Service

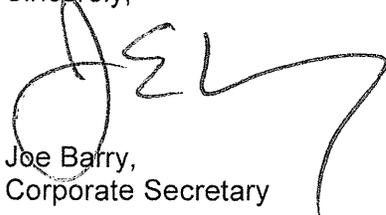
On behalf of the CVRD Board, and further to my correspondence of December 9, 2014 regarding the above referenced item, I am writing to advise you that this matter was further reviewed at the March 11, 2015 Regular Board meeting. The response received from Our Cowichan Communities Health Network (copy enclosed) was discussed and the following motion was passed:

That the Board supports Our Cowichan Communities Health Network undertaking the development of a community task force to address substance use and addiction in the region and that the findings be shared with the appropriate Provincial agency for future action.

At this time we are pleased to advise that Our Cowichan Communities Health Network will undertake this project as outlined in the resolution noted above. I trust that the agency will report back to us, the Municipality of North Cowichan, and provincial agencies as appropriate.

Should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact Cindy Lise, Our Cowichan Communities Health Network Coordinator at cindylisechn@shaw.ca. I trust this meets with your satisfaction and we look forward to the positive outcomes this may provide for the region.

Sincerely,



Joe Barry,
Corporate Secretary

Pc: Brian Carruthers, CVRD CAO
Jon Lefebure, CVRD Board Chair
Cindy Lise, Our Cowichan Communities Health Network Coordinator
Rob Hutchins, Our Cowichan Communities Health Network Co-Chair
Dr. Paul Hasselback, Island Health, Central Vancouver Island Chief Medical Health Officer



COPY

February 20, 2015

Dear Mayor Lefebure and CVRD Board of Directors:

Our Cowichan was approached by the CVRD and the Municipality of North Cowichan regarding the Coroner's Inquest Case File #2012-0199-0017 --to determine if we would be prepared to undertake the development of a community task force regarding the subject matter contained in the above referenced file.

After discussion with Our Cowichan Network members, and subject to your approval, we can report we are prepared to host a forum that would include diverse representation from agencies and service organizations that support citizens living with substance use and addictions. This action will be designed to help facilitate the conversation and set the foundation for establishing a joint review committee as per the Coroner's request. Please advise whether or not we should proceed with this action.

Sincerely,

Rob Hutchins
Co chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Hutchins". The signature is stylized and cursive.



BC METHADONE PROGRAM

College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4
www.cpsbc.ca

Telephone: 604-733-7758 ext. 2628
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)
Fax: 604-733-1267

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January 20, 2015

JAN 22 2015

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner, Province of British Columbia
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower II
800-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

**Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of Mr. Jeremy David Richardson
BCCS Case File # 2012-0199-0017**

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 22, 2014. I apologize for the delay in my reply.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia manages the provincial Methadone Maintenance Program, which is overseen by the Methadone Maintenance Committee. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 5, 2015. I will ensure that this matter is brought before the Committee for consideration, and that any action to be taken is communicated to your office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-694-6139, should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan D. Agnew, PhD
Director, Monitoring and Drug Programs

JDA/tn



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4
www.cpsbc.ca

Telephone: 604-733-7758
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)
Fax: 604-733-3503

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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

November 22, 2016

CPS File No: GC 2016-0861

Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner of BC
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower II
Suite 800 - 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

**Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of Mr. Jeremy David Richardson
BCCS Case File # 2012-0199-0017**

We write in follow-up to the recommendation made in the above-mentioned Coroner's Inquest, which was submitted to our College for consideration. The inquest specifically recommended that this College "review the controls of the methadone distribution in the Cowichan Valley."

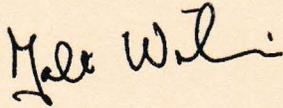
The Verdict at Inquest attributed Mr. Richardson's death to "acute combined methadone and ethanol intoxication." The report noted that Mr. Richardson was not prescribed methadone at the time of his death.

Diversion of prescription medications, including methadone, is a particular concern of this College. This College is deeply committed to the public health crisis of prescription drug abuse.

The methadone program maintained by this College has robust processes in place to attempt to reduce the potential for diversion of methadone, a controlled substance. Nevertheless, methadone is a substance with significant street value, and is at high risk of diversion. We appreciate the past and ongoing cooperation between our two agencies to reduce instances of methadone diversion, and our shared vision of reducing preventable deaths in this province.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Galt Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

J. Galt Wilson, MD
Senior Deputy Registrar
Complaints and Practice Investigations

JGW/kp/vkj