

June 26, 2014

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

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MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Re: BCCS Case File # 0211-0278-0206

Thank you for the recommendations arising from the Coroners Inquest into this death. The report and recommendations have been shared with leaders in our Regional Mental Health and Addictions Program for their information, review, and response.

With respect to the recommendation addressed to Vancouver Coastal Health, I advise that it is indeed the current practice for social workers to be an integral partner in discharge planning for all clients, with a view to ensuring linkage with the most comprehensive network of supports appropriate for each client. Vancouver Coastal Health does operate 24/7 staffed stabilization facilities in each of our communities of care (Richmond, Vancouver, and Coastal) which can serve as transition settings before returning to their home and provide an opportunity for clients to establish connections with other community based mental health resources. At the time of discharge planning, the team assesses the need of the individual client depending on level of support required, current functioning, intention to connect with Mental Health resources, housing stability, and other factors.

As our services have evolved since this event, Mental Health and Addictions Program Leaders will undertake further review to consider whether there are any potential quality improvement opportunities in view of current community programming which may be more able to assertively engage clients in sustaining contact with the supports available.

Thank you once again for the thoughtful review and recommendations, and the opportunity for further reflection on quality improvement opportunities.

Sincerely,



J. Patrick O'Connor, MD, FRCP(C)
Vice-President, Medicine, Quality & Safety
Vancouver Coastal Health