Group Home Regulatory Review--Deaths

Failure in an emergency

Angelo Santocono, 78. DOD 3/5/2014. Cause: choking

REM Hennepin—Layman, Bloomington. **Substantiated neglect**.

She choked on an apple while the caregiver was on the phone. 911 was called but CPR was not given.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_34183>

David Lee, 56. DOD 5/6/2014. Cause: heart disease

J & J Holmes, Pillager. **Substantiated neglect**.

He collapsed. Instead of calling 911 first, staff called other staff first causing an 8 minute delay. “The SP said that s/he was supposed to call the on-call staff person prior to calling 9-1-1 in order for the on-call staff person to arrive when the ambulance arrived.”

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_33902>

Young Svay, 83. DOD 9/18/2013. Cause: heart disease

Mondol Chim AFC, Oronoco. **Substantiated neglect. $1,000 fine. Conditional status for 2 years.**

She was found in bed not breathing. There was about a 15 minute delay in calling 911. CPR was not done.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_26286>

Phillip Deutz, 46. DOD 2/10/2011. Cause: urosepsis

Habilitative Services, Marshall. **Substantiated neglect**.

CPR not done. 25 minute delay in calling 911.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_20006>

Kimberly Berry Clausen, 38. DOD 10/1/2013. Cause: pulmonary embolism

REM Ramsey—Hand, Roseville. **Inconclusive**.

911 was called but staff did not perform CPR despite the facility’s policy. No action was taken by the state because staff thought she was dead and they thought the 911 operator instructed them not to.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_25739>

James Burgess, 61. DOD 5/13/2013. Cause: heart disease

Axis Alternatives, White Bear Lake. **Substantiated neglect**.

30-minute delay before calling 911. CPR not done for six minutes after Burgess lost consciousness.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_24998>

Duane Peterson, 83. DOD 10/28/2011. Cause: natural

Connections 4th Ave., Bloomington. **Substantiated neglect**.

CPR not performed.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_21363>

Delayed response to medical problems

Substantiated cases:

Gary Halvorson, 58. DOD 10/31/2012. Cause: blunt force injuries

Tonya & Eric Ruzek AFC, Lewiston. **Substantiated neglect. License placed on conditional status**. $1,000 fine

He fell seven times but one staff member told investigators that Halvorson fell “for attention” and thought he was “faking it.”

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_24991>

Hazel Vander Kolk, 68. DOD 5/10/2011. Cause: major seizure

Hiawatha Manor, Pipestone. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine, 2-year conditional status

After two days of seizures, the facility did not seek medical care for Vander Kolk despite symptoms of “limp and unresponsive,” sleepiness and needing a wheelchair.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_22052>

Thomas Seim, 64. DOD 1/31/2013. Cause: kidney disease

Residential Services of Northeast Minnesota, Duluth. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine, 1 year conditional status

Seim fell four times within three hours. Facility called in another staff member to help, but did not seek additional medical care.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_21910>

Theodore Cloud, 56. DOD 5/19/2013. Cause: pneumonia

Eagles Wing Eagleview, Bemidji. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine

He had a seizure, but despite facility policy, no doctor was contacted. Showed other symptoms.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_26063>

Unknown individual, age 79. DOD 1/24/2014. No autopsy performed.

REM North Star, Crookston. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine, 2-year conditional status

After falling twice, VA’s condition declined but medical care was not sought. Family member told investigators there were no concerns about care.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_26116>

Colleen Potter, 53. DOD 4/27/2012. Cause: pneumonia, coronary artery disease

REM Oakland, Richfield. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine

After she contracted pneumonia, facility did not obtain prescribed oxygen and did not check her blood oxygen levels.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_21020>

Kelly Kral, 51. DOD 2/7/2013. Cause: sepsis

MBW Co., New Ulm. **Substantiated neglect. $1,000 fine**

Diagnosed with a urinary tract infection, facility failed to seek medical care after her symptoms worsened.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_33589>

Inconclusive cases:

Amanda Soucek, 35. DOD 5/27/2014. Cause: pneumonia.

Habilitative Services, Fairmont. **Inconclusive**.

Soucek’s guardian and family told investigators that staff missed signs of increased labored breathing, did not have adequate training and they should have reacted earlier. One family member said that Soucek posted “Help me” on Facebook the day before going to the hospital. But the state report said that since there was no documented change in her condition, no action would be taken. <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_35194>

Richard Bailey, 64. DOD 5/17/2013. Cause: cerebral vascular disease

REM South Central, Willmar. **Inconclusive**.

Bailey vomited a black substance and died later that day. The report notes that there were unattributed concerns expressed about the home’s response. But no action was taken because: just one staff member saw the problem, there were no other symptoms, Bailey said he was fine and there were plausible explanations for his condition.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_24822>

Linda Bogenschutz, 26. DOD 8/12/2014 Cause: pulmonary embolism, ruptured appendix

REM River Bluffs—Rolling Hills, Inver Grove Heights. **Inconclusive**.

She had symptoms for four days. She said it felt like her ovarian cysts were bursting. Staff thought the problems were related to an increase in lithium dose. On advice of a pharmacist, she was brought to Woodwinds where a perforated appendix was discovered. She died at the hospital.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_34708>

Walter Schardt, 83. DOD 4/3/2012. Cause: congestive heart failure with pneumonia

Elm Homes, Waterville. **Inconclusive**.

“The Minnesota Department of Human Services had concerns surrounding a vulnerable adult’s (VA’s) death because the VA complained of breathing problems during the night and was not able to sit up in the morning immediately prior to his/her death.” No action was taken because he did not appear to be in any pain and it was normal for the him to complain if he didn’t want to do something, such as sit up in bed.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_19981>

Ronald Snavely, 67. DOD 12/1/2011. Cause: cardiac arrhythmia

Fourth Avenue Homes, Pennock. **Inconclusive.**

He was found dead one morning on the floor next to his bed. Family expressed concerns that staff could not hear the falls since he weighed over 300 pounds. The report noted that although Snavely was not feeling well for the past month, they did take him to the doctor three times, including 48 hours prior to his death.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_20024>

Randal Perron, 48. DOD 9/1/2014. Cause: sepsis

Karcher Foster Services—Upland, Taylors Falls. **Inconclusive.**

Family members expressed concerns because Perron, who had traumatic brain injury, had experienced three bowel impactions since being admitted to the home in 2013. “FM2 stated that s/he provided care to the VA over several years and never had an issue with bowel impaction.” No action taken by DHS because there was no documented change in his condition prior to death. They also cited an MDH report that said there was nothing the facility could have done (I cannot find any such investigation.) Perron’s death certificate says he was a deputy sheriff.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_34589>

Karin Norgren, 61. DOD 11/13/2010. Cause: cardiac arrest.

Eriksmoen Cottages. **Inconclusive.**

She had recently been hospitalized and required oxygen. The day she died it was unclear whether she was receiving the prescribed oxygen (the facility had run out of oxygen the day before and paramedics had to be called in). Five people interviewed could not definitively solve the question. Also, one EMT said he was told that Norgren was in distress for 40 minutes before they arrived.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_34589>

Robert Green, 86. DOD 9/12/2012. Cause: gastrointestinal hemorrhage

Client Community Services, Worthington. **Disposition: false**

Green fell during an outing. Later that day he spit up blood and was brought to the hospital. At issue was a statement initially made by one staffer that Green had been spitting up blood all day long. That statement was later retracted.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_20080>

William Kofoid, 45. DOD 5/7/2014. Cause: natural, flu

Our Circle of Friends, Faribault **Inconclusive**

He died after being diagnosed with the flu. Although he was prescribed a liquid diet, coroner said he died of the flu and dehydration. Staff said they provided plenty of fluids which were not always documented in the record.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_33894>

Losing track of residents

David Karjala, age 36. DOD 1/29/2013. Cause: Mixed drug toxicity

Options Residential, Bloomington. **Inconclusive**

”Attempts to wake the VA were made every 30 minutes from 7:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m., when it was discovered that the VA was discolored and no longer breathing…there was not enough information to say that SP1-SP3 and the HCP failed to recognize that the VA needed immediate medical care until the final check at 2 p.m.”

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_25407>

Daniel Lerom, age 26. DOD 3/18/2013. Cause: undetermined but possibly related to synthetic pot.

Marcia Prescott AFC, Princeton. **Substantiated neglect. Facility license was revoked.**

He was found dead in his bedroom after staff had not had contact with him for at least 44 hours.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_35386>

Denis Kocemba, 53. DOD 12/25/2012. Cause: exposure

Dungarvin Rathanagan, Minnetonka. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine, 2-year conditional license

She was found in the home’s garage Christmas morning, barely alive in the 1 degree cold. The garage door locked behind her. It is unclear if the facility’s alarms, which were supposed to alert staff, were turned on.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_26131>

Choking

Richard Pearson, age 55, DOD 10/8/2011

Sister Group Home, Shoreview. **Substantiated maltreatment**. $1,000 fine

“There was a preponderance of the evidence that the VA was allowed unsupervised access to food that posed a significant risk of harm given the VA’s need for supervision while eating.”

SP did not cut up a corn dog into pieces. VA ate the meal while the SP was talking on the cellphone. He choked and died.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_24569>

Sandra Rude, 53, DOD 4/28/2013. Cause: choking

Dungarvin Park, Anoka. **Inconclusive.**

She was supposed to eat pureed food. Unsupervised, she ate some cake left on the counter, choked and died.

“Although the VA required supervision while eating, given that it was **unusual for the VA to take food off the counter** without notifying staff persons and to eat food after dinner and information showed that the VA did not have a history of choking, there was not a preponderance of the evidence whether there was reasonable and necessary care provided to the VA.”

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_23320>

Other Deaths

James Sundboom, 66. DOD 4/22/2013. Cause: blunt force trauma

Thomas Allen Inc., Apple Valley. **Substantiated neglect.**

A staffer was driving four residents back to the facility, ran a red light while reportedly talking on or dialing a cellphone. Sundboom died as a result.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_24288>

Benny Taylor, 53. DOD 5/24/2014. Cause: diabetic ketoacidosis; .44 blood alcohol level

Stepping Stones for Living, Saginaw**. Inconclusive**.

While on an outing, Taylor slipped away from a staff member who was waiting on another resident who was in the bathroom. He made his way to Columbia Heights, where he was found deceased.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_35007>

Suicides

Erik Olson, 23. DOD 11/17/2011. Cause: hanging

MTF Inc., St. Paul. **Substantiated neglect**. $1,000 fine, 2-year conditional license

He hung himself in the bedroom closet. Staff did not have contact with him for over 20 hours and did not make attempts to find him.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_22162>

Alan Wiedrick, 24. DOD 10/13/2012. Cause: hanging

Cooperating Community Programs, New Brighton. **Inconclusive**.

Wiedrick’s guardian, his mother, wanted him to be seen by a doctor or admitted to Mayo Clinic but “staff persons were not cooperating” with the guardian. Investigators determined that he had many therapy encounters in the past six months, including a psychiatrist. There also had been care conferences with the mother.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_21491>

Estavian Hudson, 37. DOD 11/13/2011. Cause: hanging

Open Hands II, Brooklyn Center. **Inconclusive**

It is unclear whether he was to be checked every 15 to 20 minutes or once an hour. But the state ruled this inconclusive because: he did say he was suicidal recently and “it was not known when the VA arranged his/her means of suicide.”

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_23475>

Andrew Aadland, 26. DOD 9/24/2014. Cause: hanging

Options Ardis, Burnsville**. Inconclusive**.

Staff brought him to his brother’s house. After brother left him in the afternoon, Aadland hung himself. At issue is whether or not the brother told staff that he would be leaving. Brother said yes, staff said no.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_35393>

Jeremy Reeves, 28. DOD 2/16/2014 Cause: blunt force trauma

Stepping Stones for Living, Duluth. **Inconclusive.**

Reeves stepped in front of a moving vehicle not far from the group home. This happened after there was a confrontation with another resident. Staff members responded and Reeves did speak with a member of his crisis team on the phone, saying that “I’m going to elope and jump in front of a car on the highway.” Some staff members said afterwards that perhaps Reeves should have been restrained. The report described Reeves as impulsive, prone to making “empty threats” and was impulsive.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_26138>

Daniel Dobson, 28. DOD 11/5/2013. Cause: hanging

Restart Inc., Brooklyn Center. **Inconclusive**.

He hung himself in the facility basement. About two weeks prior to the suicide, Dobson was in crisis and seemed to stabilize after interventions. No action was taken against facility because it had a plan in place and “there was no evidence that the VA displayed signs or symptoms” that he was at an increased risk that night.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_34496>

Tyler Flor, 28. DOD 1/11/2014. Cause: gunshot wound to head

South Metro Human Services, Coon Rapids. **Disposition: False**

Flor went missing from the facility. Staff contacted his probation officer, ACT team and an on-call supervisor. But a police report was not filed until 24 hours. He later shot himself at a gun range.

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=LLO_25738>