

Courtney Blau  
Administrative Director for Risk Management & Compliance  
Norman Regional Hospital  
901 N. Porter Ave.  
Norman, Ok 73071

Ms. Blau:

The text of this letter contains the formal written request you have asked for regarding the regular meeting of the Norman Regional Hospital Authority's board which is currently scheduled for April 23, 2018 at 5:30PM.

While we are understanding of the fact that HIPPA and other federal regulations and employee protections may prohibit the disclosure of certain information, we are asking that the chair and NRH board recognize the gravity of the Kessesee incident with the following questions and concerns from members of the public.

We ask that your board take action to respect the urgency and gravity of our requests. The ongoing efforts to seek justice for one of our homeless citizens of Norman, Marconia Kessesee, will not stop with the actions of your board members. But your actions can, with your compassion and input, impact this process in a positive manner.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in acting urgently and compassionately in these efforts to rectify the many failures in the chain of command, and to address the inadequacies in staff training and development. The so-called "patient hand-off procedures" which led to the arrest, detention, and ultimate death of Marconia Kessesee merits thorough examination review from hospital administrative staff and the NRH board. Once completed, we ask these findings be presented to public in an open meeting with time made available for questions and answers.

The hospital staff's neglect, failure to treat, and failure to take seriously the medical issues associated with mental illness and substance dependency did contribute to Kessesee's untimely death. Medical institutions and public-private partnerships such as the Norman Regional Hospital Authority are subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. As with any public decision making body, yours must be held to higher standards of accountability and transparency. You members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Norman City Council. City Manager, Steve Lewis is an ex-officio member of your board. Members of the public should have input in how this community resource is administered and how its policies are set.

We wish to see the following items added to your agenda for the April 23, 2018 meeting:

- 1) full disclosure and release of security video from date 1/16/18, including the intake and

release of Mr. Marconia Kessee. This footage should be released to the public, and reviewed by the NRH authority members during or before the April 23 board meeting.

2) a public statement and detailed update regarding all actions being taken by NRH Authority Board to investigate the Kessee incident. Please provide thorough explanations of any investigatory or disciplinary actions currently being taken with regard to the incident. If such actions have not been pursued, please provide a thorough and detailed explanation as to why.

3) A full disclosure of internal Hospital records on the events that transpired on the Norman Regional Hospital Porter Ave. campus on the evening of January 16, 2018. Review the employment records of all security and medical staff responsible for Mr. Kessee's intake, examination, discharge, and his subsequent arrest for trespassing. These decisions ultimately led to Kessee's death at the Cleveland County detention center.

4) An immediate review of the intake and treatment policies for indigent and non-paying clients. This review should also include patients seeking relief from symptoms of withdrawal from such addictive substances including opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other substances labeled as narcotics or Controlled Dangerous Substances.

5) A full accounting, disclosure, and review of all staff training materials related to cultural competency, racial bias, and the handling of incidents involving members of the homeless community as well as the mentally ill.

Sincerely,

Norman Citizens for Racial Justice

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