

HB 1354

From: Jeanne < >
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Skroch, Kathy <kskroch@nd.gov>
Cc: Rebecca Anderson
Subject: Re: Behavioral Health Alerts, January 15, 2021

(To the ND Human Services Committee, ^7th Legislative Session)

Our entire last year is a textbook perfect example of what people with a serious mental health diagnosis go through once they commit a crime.

Last May 5 th, 2020 XXXXXX said he shot up with the most Herouin he has ever used. The next day, May 6 th, 2020, he walked from N FARGO to Thrifty White in West FARGO to get his monthly shot of 400 mg of Abilify Maintana. He then went to his favorite tobacco store to buy tobacco. He had asked me to put \$60.00 on his debit card from the Social Security Disability account. He paid for one pouch of tobacco and shop lifted two other pouches. He left the store and the owners son came after XXXXXX aggressively and police were called. XXXXXX's escalation resulted in punching the officer. He was handcuffed and charged with robbery in the Cass County Jail. In a way this was the perfect storm of a large quantity of legal and illegal drugs. In his system. XXXXXX's attorney thought the Abilify may have caused impulsivity. XXXXXX was incarcerated pending a Psych. Evaluation. This was done and he was considered to not be, "reality based." This was after two months in jail and taking oral Abilify. On July 15, 2020, XXXXXX was released from jail on his own personal recognizance. He was discharged to the street. He stayed with friends, slept outdoors at Concordia College.

On August 7, 2020, the Cass County Sheriff called to see if I would transport XXXXXX to the Jamestown State Hospital. They could not because he was out on P. R. His attorney told me that he was committed for a year and that he needed to be deemed competent to understand the charges against him. On August 28th, 2020, XXXXXX was discharged from the State Hospital and deemed "competent." The State Hospital Social Worker, /////, was trying to establish a discharge plan. This is when we learned that there was no commitment order. ///// said that they can no longer discharge to the street as of a new Court Order of Governor Burgum. The hospital transported him to S.E.Human services and dropped him off. Again he was homeless. XXXXXX was trying to find places nightly. He did not want to stay with family, nor did we think we could handle it. As it got colder, (sub-zero temperatures) we tried renting a room at the Rodeway Hotel on a monthly rate. He was asked to leave after approximately three weeks because he had other homeless people in the room. Once again he is in the street. I called his attorney's office to see if they could speed up the hearing. I was told how busy they are and a lot of their clients are homeless, and added that is not their responsibility.

XXXXXX stayed with friends at his Mom's apartment. His Mom was sent to Sanford Psych and XXXXXX invited homeless people in once again. His Aunt Becky planned to pick him up for an appointment with his lawyer. It took him two hours to get ready and once at the attorney's office, XXXXXX was tackled by another attorney as he picked up pens and paper. Another escalation of events. They rescheduled for the next day on a Zoom call. Becky again picked XXXXXX up at his Mom's apartment. This day XXXXXX was decompensating from the day before and his attorney asked Becky to take him to Prairie for an Eval. I called ahead and was talked to abruptly. Prairie sent Becky with XXXXXX to the Sanford Urgent

Care for medical clearance. They placed him on a 24-hr hold and transported him by Law Enforcement, handcuffed, back to Prairie. Now we think we are getting somewhere and that XXXXXX is safe. The next day we are told that he checked himself out. On an (A.M.A.), Against Medical Advice! How is this even possible in a Psychiatric setting. What about Governor Burgum's order? Does that only apply to Jamestown? Again, there is no discharge plan and XXXXXX had only slippers on when he left. I tried to file an emergency guardianship and I filed a Vulnerable Adult report. At 4:15 that Friday I received a call that they would help me the following Tuesday to file the guardianship (application) (four days beyond the current crisis). It was a long weekend due to Martin Luther King Holiday. I left town, so Becky has pursued the emergency guardianship. Again XXXXXX is homeless, he cannot go back to his Mom's. Our safety net evaporated. So now we wait for the final hearing that is set for February 17, 2021. It is very cold in Fargo ND in January!! If any legislative committee can find a way to help this very vulnerable population, it will be life changing and life-saving for certain!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Anderson,

(XXXXXX's grandmother, adoptive Mom since age 13, and his Soc. Sec. Representative Payee)