

November 17, 2011

Sarah Chasson, Esq.

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We discussed the public's perception of Mr. Hinckley particularly that of the Williamsburg community. He shared this vignette from one of their therapy sessions:

Around the time that Jared Loughner shot Congresswoman Gifford, Mr. Hinckley commented, "Wow. Is that how people see me?" When I asked, "Tell me what you think" he said, "Yeah, I think that they do." Then he began to vent his frustrations. "It's impossible for me to change that. I don't have a microphone in my hand. I don't have the video camera. So no one can hear my music. No one can see my art. I have these other aspects of my life that no one knows about. I'm an artist. I'm a musician. Nobody knows that. They just see me as the guy who tried to kill Reagan."

Mr. Hyde informed me that he identified music therapy services for Mr. Hinckley in Williamsburg with Elizabeth Hurley a former music therapist at Eastern State Hospital who also sees private clients. Mr. Hyde provided Mr. Hinckley with the necessary contact information but it is unclear at this time if he has followed through.

We discussed the dental resident incident. Mr. Hyde indicated that in therapy sessions Mr. Hinckley's description of what had transpired was suggestive of a situation where a staff member should have exercised more boundary discretion. Nonetheless, he found no excuse for Mr. Hinckley's violation of his computer restriction and acknowledged that such behavior showed poor judgment in the context of the incident in the broader context of his case.

I asked Mr. Hyde if Mr. Hinckley shared any of his feelings about the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the assassination attempt. He indicated that there was somewhat of a confluence of discussion transition between Congresswoman Gifford's shooting and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In particular, Mr. Hinckley made several references about media coverage. The CNN special, then *Rawhide Down* came out and it all became compacted for him. Mr. Hyde said Mr. Hinckley focused on how the world saw him. Seeing how much anger was focused on Loughner forced him to focus on how people in Williamsburg look at him - confronting the reality of how that one day in history painted an image of him that will last forever. Mr. Hyde said the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a wake-up call for Mr. Hinckley forcing him to deal with how people see him now and not being able to control that message.

#### **Deidre Cogan, ATR, Art Therapist**

Mr. Hinckley began working with Ms. Cogan since the John Howard patients began coming over to participate in the TLC activities in the new Hospital. He is a member of her studio arts group. The group is not an insight oriented group; rather it functions as an artist studio for patients who have been in care for a very long time. Mr. Hinckley has taken an interest in learning how to paint abstractly.

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For the most part Mr. Hinckley is very quiet in the group. It is all male and all former John Howard patients in large measure because that is who signed up for it. He talks mostly about the aesthetics of his work. He does landscapes, he copies painting of famous artists, and he paints portraits of his cats.

Describing his work as "pretty good" Ms. Cogan believes he has learned to accept constructive criticism and that he would benefit from continuing his art therapy in Williamsburg. She has made the suggestion that with the assistance of his Williamsburg clinician he search the Internet to find a group that he could join. Ms. Cogan feels that a course in art history or a studio art course at a community college would be an appropriate activity for Mr. Hinckley in Williamsburg.

She finds Mr. Hinckley to be somewhat guarded with her which is quite different than with Mr. Hyde. However, she acknowledges the group setting and the relationship they developed is very different. She is aware of Mr. Hinckley's past history regarding female staff and denies Mr. Hinckley ever demonstrating an interest in her as a woman.

Interestingly, as he has done in music therapy, Mr. Hinckley produces on average a painting a session. She is working on trying to get him to slow down. Ms. Cogan feels the art therapy has helped his socialization as demonstrated by his interactions with other group members.

Ms. Cogan notes that Mr. Hinckley is narcissistically frustrated by the exhibit limitations placed upon him. She has been consistent in refocusing his recognition that "that is the way it is." However, she recognizes that all artists are narcissistic regarding the desire to have their work admired by others.

She noted that six months ago Mr. Hinckley gave two of his paintings to a young attractive art therapy volunteer. She gave the paintings to Ms. Cogan who returned them to Mr. Hinckley. Her concern was that she felt it inappropriate for a therapist to accept such a gift and given Mr. Hinckley's history it was not a good idea. We discussed the several individuals to whom he has recently offered artwork. Interestingly, Mr. Hinckley has never offered her artwork. It should be noted that Ms. Cogan is herself an attractive woman.

#### **Velora Jernigan-Pedrick, MLS, Hospital Librarian**

Ms. Pedrick confirmed that Mr. Hinckley continues to competently and reliably perform the duties of a library aide in his work assignment at the staff library for two hours per day, five days per week and seems to enjoy his job. He continues with the primary responsibility of processing interlibrary loan requests through DOCLINE, the National Library of Medicine's automated interlibrary loan request routing and referral system. Additionally Mr. Hinckley is asked to do data entry, photocopying, electronic scanning, shelving, and labeling the library collection. He has also been called upon to do some research in the archives.