



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-0228

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 18697 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH
44130, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview – Annette Trowbridge
Activity Date: April 12, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On April 12, 2023, at approximately 1509 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) met with and interviewed Assistant Clinical Manager Annette Trowbridge (Trowbridge). Trowbridge was also a Registered Nurse and the Nursing Supervisor in the Emergency Department at Southwest General Medical Center on October 18, 2022. She was identified as an individual who witnessed a portion of the incident surrounding the death of patient Bryan Bailey. The interview took place at the BCI Richfield office and was audio recorded.

The following is a summary of the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. The information was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Throughout the interview, Trowbridge provided the following information:

Trowbridge was employed at Southwest General Medical Center for approximately 23 years. She worked as a Registered Nurse (RN) and has been the Emergency Department Assistant Clinical Manager for the past 5 or 6 years. The Assistant Clinical Manager serves as the shift supervisor and oversees the daily operation of the Emergency Department. Trowbridge earned a Bachelor degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice at Kent State University and completed a Diploma Registered Nurse program through Fairview Hospital School of Nursing.

During her shift on October 18, 2022, Trowbridge was looking for a piece of equipment in the emergency department offices. She was aware of the psychiatric patient in Exam Room 3 because she had made note of his girlfriend who was present and acting strangely throughout the day. As she exited the trauma storage room, she saw RN Jessica Herman (Herman) looking for the "crash cart" (a cart containing drugs and other equipment used when a patient is in cardiac arrest). Herman indicated it was needed for bed 3. Trowbridge explained she was shocked

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-0228

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 18697 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH
44130, Cuyahoga County

because the patient had been pretty relaxed and was sleeping most of the day but Herman indicated the patient had "lost it".

Trowbridge went to the room and saw staff performing CPR on the patient. She asked what happened and noticed everyone in the room looked like they were in shock. Staff members told her the patient came after all of them and it had taken all of them to keep him from attacking them. They told her he was like a bear and was kicking, spitting, and biting and had "lost his shit." Then they noticed he wasn't breathing and they immediately started CPR.

Trowbridge said a lot of people were all talking at once and she could not remember who told her the specifics of what the patient had done. When she arrived at the exam room, she recalled RN Jeff Rubel (Rubel) was outside the room. She remembered Juan Crespo, Brandon Mason, Christine Novick, and Jessica Herman were present in the room. Dr. Harris was in and out of the room and there were one or two officers standing outside the room.

Rubel was the patient's nurse. Trowbridge noticed Rubel was white as a ghost. She went to him and asked what happened. She explained "He's like, he was white as a ghost. He's like 'it was like a bear just' his words were 'it was a bear'. He's like, 'It was just this bear that just came off the bed.'" (9:08) Rubel went on to explain he went into the room to get a urine specimen and he drew the curtain because he thought they were going to have to catheterize the patient because he hadn't been able to give a urine sample throughout the day. As he drew the curtain, the patient came off the bed and wrapped him up like a bear and started pulling him down. Rubel told her he fell down with the patient and was struggling to get away from the patient. Trowbridge said Rubel was shaking as he told her what happened.

Trowbridge said she found it odd that Rubel was not assisting with Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). She found his behavior unusual, but said everyone handles shock differently. She believed Rubel's absence was related to him being in shock from his physical encounter with the patient.

Trowbridge said Rubel's reaction appeared genuine and she did not believe he could fake the reaction he was having. She reiterated Rubel looked genuinely scared, freaked out, and was white, and shaking.

Trowbridge believed the patient's girlfriend displayed odd behavior throughout the day prior to the incident. She was walking around the emergency department like she was lost and constantly coming in and out. She was asking staff for a lighter and Trowbridge suspected she had been

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-0228

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 18697 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH
44130, Cuyahoga County

using drugs when she was going outside. Within the same hour as when the patient went into cardiac arrest, Trowbridge noticed there was a distinct change in the girlfriend's demeanor and behavior. Trowbridge associated it with the use of drugs and believed she had gone outside and used. Trowbridge said she specifically noticed the girlfriend was wondering around, went to a corner and stood against the wall. Her back was to the wall and she was shaking as she slowly sank down the wall to a seated position of the floor. Trowbridge directed her back to Exam Room 3 and told her she needed to stay in the room.

After the incident was over, Trowbridge wondered if the girlfriend had given drugs to the patient. She questioned how the patient went from being a zoned-out zombie most of the day to suddenly becoming a bear who was attacking staff.

Trowbridge did not witness any of the employees do anything that was out of the ordinary or unnecessary.

Trowbridge did not believe anyone was disciplined as a result of their actions related to the incident. She knew Rubel was placed on leave after the incident and was eventually "let go." She believed the reason was related to his charting. She did not believe it was related to the physical altercation that occurred between Rubel and the patient. Trowbridge said Rubel had been counseled on his charting numerous times prior to this incident. She suspected that the hospital administration had reviewed the patient file after the incident and had issues with Rubel's lack of documentation. Trowbridge did not report to anyone that she had concerns related to the physical encounter between Rubel and the patient.

Trowbridge said she did not have concerns related to Rubel being antagonistic toward patients. She believed Rubel was a lazy nurse and had a "fuck it" attitude. She did not like his work ethic and because of that she did not know him personally. She said Rubel was not the typical friendly nurse a patient wants to have when they are in the hospital. Beside that, Trowbridge did not have concerns related to Rubel being physically aggressive with patients.

Attachments:

2023-04-12 Interview - Annette Trowbridge