



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Final Report
July 22, 2008

Psychiatric Center Worker Lived in Paint Shop

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

An investigation by the New York State Inspector General determined that Henry Logue, an employee of the Rockland Psychiatric Center of the New York State Office of Mental Health, had been residing at the facility during the majority of the last three years, in violation of agency policies. As of the issuance of this report, Logue has removed his personal belongings and vacated the premises. In addition, OMH determined that Logue owed the agency \$2,571.12 for Logue's unauthorized use of its facilities and will deduct the amount from Logue's future pay checks.

ALLEGATIONS

On May 18, 2007, the Inspector General received an anonymous telephone complaint alleging that an employee at the Rockland Psychiatric Center had been improperly residing on state premises.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

The Rockland Psychiatric Center provides treatment, rehabilitation, and support to adults 18 years of age and older with severe and complex mental illnesses. The large campus containing multiple buildings for patient care and plant maintenance is located at 140 Old Orangeburg Road in Orangeburg, New York.

The Inspector General's investigation revealed that an Office of Mental Health employee, Maintenance Supervisor 3 Henry Logue, had been residing in the paint shop in Building 49 of the Rockland Psychiatric Center, for most of the last three years.

According to records from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Logue registered his personal vehicle to the address of the Rockland Psychiatric Center. The United States Postal Service also confirmed that Logue had been receiving personal mail at the facility for years. Although Logue and his wife own a residence in Pearl River, New York, surveillance conducted by the Inspector General's Office on weekday mornings revealed that Logue was residing at the Rockland Psychiatric Center.

The Rockland Psychiatric Center does not permit employees to remain on-site during non-working hours. Investigators obtained a copy of a memo issued by Maintenance Supervisor 4 Ray Ostrom in February 2002 warning employees not to remain at the facility after their shifts. Ostrom's successor issued a similar memo in February 2008.

In an interview, Logue admitted to investigators from both the Inspector General's Office and the Office of Mental Health that for the majority of the past three years he had been residing rent-free inside the paint shop of the Rockland Psychiatric Center. Logue's residence was in a locked back room of the shop. An examination of the room revealed a couch, microwave, refrigerator, and numerous personal items belonging to Logue. Investigators noted that paint fumes permeated the room. Logue was asked to vacate the paint shop in October 2007.

The Inspector General's review of Office of Mental Health payroll records indicated that during the three-year period of his residency at the facility, Logue received approximately \$40,000 per year in excess of his salary for overtime. Logue's annual salary as of June 2007 was \$58,849. Both the Executive Director and Director of Administrative Services of the facility told investigators that they relied primarily on Logue for after-hours maintenance emergencies, snow removal, and for aiding employees in getting to work from the train station in poor weather. Nonetheless, both asserted that they did not know that Logue was living on-site. Ostrom, who was Logue's supervisor for the majority of the three years of Logue's residency at the facility, claimed he did not know that Logue was residing at the paint shop. Ostrom told investigators that he thought Logue had rented a room nearby in Orangeburg. When questioned about Logue's high overtime earnings, Ostrom stated that he was not aware of the full extent of Logue's overtime earnings because others sometimes approved Logue's attendance records. Ostrom retired in August 2007 but has since returned to the facility as a part-time employee.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Inspector General's investigation found that Logue lived in the paint shop at the Rockland Psychiatric Center for at least 24 of the last 36 months. Logue has since vacated the paint shop. Investigators from Office of Mental Health have verified that as of December 27, 2007, all of Logue's personal belongings were removed from the paint shop.

OMH has assessed Logue \$2,571.12 for living expenses owed to the State of New York. The amount is to be deducted from Logue's state paycheck.