

Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: May 4, 2017

From: Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (51)

Subj: Administrative Investigation – Alleged Gross Mismanagement, Department of Veterans Affairs – Advisory No. 16-04882-216 (2016-04882-IQ-0001)

To: VA Chief of Staff (00A)

Purpose

The VA Office of Inspector General Administrative Investigations Division investigated an allegation that a VA employee intentionally caused his/her own death due to stress from gross mismanagement, and there was some degree of a cover up by management.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

To assess these allegations, we interviewed VA employees, reviewed personnel and medical records, as well as reviewed non-VA police reports.

Investigative Results

We found no evidence that the employee's actions were a result of stress from gross mismanagement or that there was a cover up. Due to the employee's identified condition, management made reasonable accommodations for the employee, and they upheld their responsibility to protect the employee's privacy. After the employee's death, management appropriately referred the employee's colleagues to VA's Employee Assistance Program. Medical records and police reports reflected the employee had a history since 2010 of seeking treatment for a specific condition that may have contributed to his/her death. Details that might compromise the identity of the employee were withheld to protect the privacy of the employee as well as the privacy of his/her family.

Conclusion

We did not substantiate the allegations that a VA employee ended his/her life due to stress from gross mismanagement or that there was any cover up by management.



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for Investigations

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