

DANIELLE MORGAN, LLC

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Chief of Police Gary MacNamara
Town of Fairfield Police Department
100 Reef Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

February 14, 2013

Dear Chief MacNamara:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me yesterday about my interactions with your CIT Officer Lance Newkirchen at Fairfield Counseling Services. As I stated yesterday, I have been providing skilled psychiatric care to mentally ill individuals since 1992. Often, I have needed to call upon law enforcement over the years when I have had a potentially dangerous and certainly compromised patient present to me for psychiatric exam.

As I was pulled into this emergency yesterday with a patient unknown to me but clearly suffering in a very compromised cognitive state filled with paranoia, delusions of persecution, and suspiciousness, I quickly assessed that this patient needed careful transport to the hospital. After calling 911, I made it my priority to manage the two most pressing unknowns: ensuring the safety of staff and other patients present in the clinic given how violent this patient could become and managing the potential for increased agitation prompted by the presenting police officer/EMS personnel. You see, with all the expert training offered to police officers and EMS, how to manage a psychiatric crisis is often lost, as is commonly exhibited when these folks arrive to a certainly unpredictable psychiatric situation such as this.

I was incredibly impressed with the clinical savvy, expert interviewing skills, and the willingness to participate in our team that Officer Newkirchen brought to the psychiatric situation at our clinic yesterday. The dignity and respect he afforded this patient exhibited great compassion and a refreshing educational understanding of mental illness by law enforcement. The CIT program, at least as this officer has exhibited, is clearly a great asset to your police force. Everyone in the community can feel safer knowing this service is available when psychiatric crises emerge in our most vulnerable community based settings – schools, mental health clinics, or residential facilities, to name a few.

Please accept my greatest thanks to your CIT team, particularly Officer Newkirchen, for a quick and clinically informed intervention at Fairfield Counseling Services. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Warmest Regards,

Danielle Morgan, MSN, ANP, CNS, Family PMHNP, APRN-BC
Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

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