



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 8, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

On behalf of veterans in Wisconsin, I am writing to express my concern about the repeated and ongoing issues at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Tomah, Wisconsin. My constituents and I are tired of the scandals and misconduct that have plagued the Tomah VAMC, which has frequently compromised the wellbeing of the veterans who depend on the care they earned.

Most recently, on January 4, 2016, an employee of the Tomah VA was jailed for alleged sexual assault against a female patient. It is deeply disturbing to think that a Mental Health Peer Support Specialist, who is supposed to work to help heal the emotional wounds of our veterans, would sexually assault a patient in his care. It is as troublesome and unconscionable to think that a victim of sexual crimes by a VA employee would have to return to receive treatment at the very facility which they were assaulted. Therefore, I am asking you to use any authority you have to ensure that victims of sexual crimes on VA facility grounds or committed by employees of your department be given the option to receive care in the private market.

Additionally, please provide answers to the following questions regarding Charles W. Davis, the VA employee who allegedly victimized a patient under his care at the Tomah VAMC:

- 1) How long has Mr. Davis been employed by the VA, including at the Tomah VAMC?
- 2) Does Mr. Davis have previous criminal history?
- 3) Was there a background check performed on Mr. Davis before he was hire and if so, were there any concerns about his past?
- 4) Has Mr. Davis ever been administratively reprimanded for any prior behavior as a VA employee?
- 5) How many victims were assaulted by Mr. Davis?
- 6) How long were the victims assaulted? On how many counts?
- 7) When did employees at the VA first become aware of the allegations against Mr. Davis?
- 8) Does Mr. Davis meet the necessary certification and licensing requirements to be a peer support specialist?

As the investigation continues by the Tomah VA Police Department with assistance from Monroe County District Attorney's office, I look forward to your response to these questions, which I hope to have no later than Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Please send an electronic copy of your response to Lindsay Gill in my office who can be reached at Lindsay.Gill@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-3365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.P. Duffy", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress