

Official Meeting With Geriatric Hospital Staff for Samuel Wilkinson Weekes

To: Barbados Underground
From: David Weekes
CC:
Date: 4/29/2013
Re: Notes of Meeting with Geriatric Hospital Staff for Samuel Wilkinson Weekes

(WITHOUT PREJUDICE)

Date of Meeting January 30th 2013 3 p.m.

Overview – Official Meeting at the St. Philip District Hospital

Parties Present – Nurse *** –
Dr. ** – **
*** – **
Nurse *** –
*** – **

George Collymore – my Uncle
Phillip Weekes – brother
Self – David Weekes

Background: My father (the Late) Samuel Weekes was a patient of St. Philip Geriatric Hospital. During his stay at the St Philip hospital he incurred a fractured hip on the 11th of January and was transferred to the QEH, a week later, where he died.

The following are my notes made at that meeting and the questions **Q **** raised and responses **R **** received.

(It is to be noted that this submission is **WITHOUT PREJUDICE**)

1. After initial comments and condolences by *** my family was invited to ask questions of parties present.
2. **Q.1:** I started by asking what had happened on the day of the accident. **R.1** *** said that she had put my father to bed earlier and that when rounds were made at 7.30 p.m. he was found on the floor. Some attendants were called to lift Mr. Weekes back into the bed.
3. **Q2:** Were there rails around the bed? **R.2a** Yes. **Q2b:** Were they up? **R.2b** Yes. It was their opinion that he had crawled past over the rails and fallen
4. **Q.3:** What were the names of the attendants? **R.3** *** responded that these names were not necessary
5. **Q.4:** What was the name of the attending doctor? **R.4** *** responded Dr. ***.
Q.4.b: Why was he not present at this meeting? *** responded that *** was not a

staff doctor, he was stationed at the ** at ** but was on call at the Geriatric, over the weekend.

6. *** went on to say that “on the weekends, the doctors who are on duty are not staff but are on “attachment” (By this I understand that they are not Geriatric District Hospital Staff and may even be private doctors).
7. *** continued to detail what had happened the evening my father sustained his fall. *** did so while reading from her notes.
8. *** said that a call was made to the doctor (Dr. **) who came and examined the patient (my father) at 9.30 p.m. Dr. *** took Daddy’s vital signs and gave an assessment that “there was no obvious injury”
9. **Q.4:** What was the medication that Dr. *** asked them to administer? **R.4** *** responded that Daddy was given (2) panadol.
10. **Q.5:** Was there any other medicine or treatment recommended? **R.5** *** “the medication was changed to paracetamol”. *** indicated that the medication also included Voltaren”.
11. **Q.6:** Where is Nurse ***? Why is she not at the meeting? **R. 6** *** it was not felt that her presence was necessary.
12. **Q.7:** Were they aware that there were two versions of the incident of Daddy’s fall, one which included that my father was found on the floor the following morning, as opposed to the night of the 11th Jan?
13. **R.7** ***, and her colleagues, categorically denied that my father could have been on the floor overnight without an attendant seeing him there.
14. I related “the other version” by the nurse who was absent, the one who had called me. I then related the second version received by the “nurse on call” for that evening.
15. **Q.8:** What was the name of the nurse on Call that evening? **R.8** *** responded that they did not know but that would be easy to find out
16. **Q.9: to nurse Patrick** What was Daddy’s weight? **R.9** *** would not know that since patients were not weighed.
17. **Q.10:** Did they not see that Daddy was a skeleton and, given that when old people fell, particularly those who were frail, an x-ray should have been requested?
18. **R.10** *** said that nurses “did not diagnose, that was the doctor’s job, they only administered care, up to a certain point”
19. **Q.11:** Was it ***’s assessment that the treatment that was administered on the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and the 16th, panadol, paracetamol and voltaren were appropriate with the fractured hip that Daddy was suffering with?
20. **R.11** *** responded that up until the 30th of January he had not been able to speak to Dr. *** on his assessment of my father’s injuries from the 11th Jan.
21. Dr. *** indicated that Dr. *** had also been the doctor on duty for the weekend of the 12th and the 13th.
22. Dr. *** also stated that “Daddy had been reviewed from the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and the 16th “

23. **Q.12:** What had caused them to carry Daddy to the hospital on the 16th? **R.12** *** responded that “**he (Daddy) was in pain**”
24. **Q.13:** So from the 11th through the 16th was Daddy in pain? **R. 13** Nurse *** responded and said “when she saw Daddy he was **resting peacefully in the bed** and there was no instances where he indicated that **he was in pain**”
25. **Q.14 to ***:** Given the fact that my father had a broken hip when he was examined at the QEH, do you feel that the various medications, panadol, paracetamol and the analgesic Voltaren, was adequate? **R.14** Dr. *** replied that he has yet to discuss the treatment with the physician Dr. ***
26. **Q.15:** Why did it take so long to inform me that my father had received an injury on the 11th that had occasioned him being taken to the QEH on the 16th?
27. **R.15** Dr. *** apologized for “this lapse in protocol that could be due to a number of things”. He elucidated by saying “the fact that the facility is understaffed and any number of emergencies might have come up to distract the staff on the ward from making the phone call to you”
28. **Q.16:** Did anyone for the District hospital call the QEH to find out the nature of “the soft tissue injury” that Dr. *** **diagnosed that my father had?**
29. **R.16** A few of the District hospital staff responded to this variously and I was informed that “it was the facility practice that a nurse had to accompany the patient to the QEH and remain there until he was admitted or returned to the facility”
30. **Q.17:** What was the name of that nurse? **R.17** Dr. *** said that they were not going to give that information
31. **Q.18:** What was the information that they had received from the nurse about Daddy’s injury, the injury that Daddy had sustained on the 11th and, to quote them “given the pain that he was in”, had necessitated his transfer to the hospital on the 16th?
32. **R.18** Dr. *** they did not receive any information about Daddy’s injury from the nurse and he had had to call the hospital to get information on such.
33. In closing the meeting, I indicated that “I would be extremely keen to see the medical file and to view the treatment and medication that they administered to Daddy”. I promised faithfully that I would do everything in my power to obtain such.
34. I asked Uncle George and Philip if they had any questions or comments.
35. I thanked them for allowing us to come and discuss the matter and, post collecting Daddy’s personal items, we left the St Philip Geriatric Hospital.