

MENTAL ILLNESS POLICY ORG.

UNBIASED INFORMATION FOR POLICYMAKERS + MEDIA
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Potentially Preventable Tragedies in Pennsylvania

(Culled and edited by Mental Illness Policy Org from Treatment Advocacy Center database)

Bensalem, Bucks, PA

On 8/16/07, Patrick Hughes-Bygott fatally stabbed his mother Ellen Hughes-Bygott while the grandmother, Margaret Hughes, pleaded for him to stop. "He told me, 'She's too thin, she's sick, she has to die,' " He was like a madman stabbing her. Bucks County Judge John J. Rufe called it "an extraordinarily sad and tragic case" of a mentally ill mother slain by a mentally ill son.

Spring Township, Berks, PA

On 2/19/11, Manuel A. Carrero Jr., who has a history of mental illness, attacked an elderly couple with a hammer killing 83-year-old Lucy Born and critically injuring 86-year-old James Born. Reading Eagle,

Ebensburg, Cambria, PA

On 6/29/08, David Gerlach, 42, who suffered from bipolar disorder fatally shot his wife Debra Gerlach, 41, and Paul Demetri, 44, who was visiting her from Maryland, before turning the gun on himself in Cambria Township. David Gerlach, was bipolar. Johnstown Tribune Democrat, 7/5/08

Mansfield, Tioga, PA

On 9/13/07, Boyce Singleton killed 38-year-old Michelle Cazan in her Mansfield home. Prosecution and defense experts agreed Singleton suffers from a form of schizophrenia. Burlington County Times, 6/19/08; Cherry Hill Courier Post, 6/25/08; Trentonian.com, 3/01/11

Smock, Fayette, PA

On 4/11/08, 29-year-old Angela Michelle Modispaw fatally stabbed her mother, Theresa Modispaw, with a knife and used scissors to stab her brother, Michael Angella "began hearing voices telling her she had to kill her mother.". Modispaw had stopped taking medications for schizophrenia. TribLive.com, 4/12/08; Tribune-Review, 8/26/10

Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA

On 3/8/12, 30-year-old John F. Shick fatally shot 25-year-old Michael Schaab, a nurse, and wounded seven others at Western Psychiatric Institute Shick was fatally shot by police. The previous November, Shick's doctor urged him to resume medication for schizophrenia, after his mother told doctors he stopped taking it. Shick walked out and skipped a follow-up appointment. WTAE.com, 3/9/12; Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 3/13/12; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 3/13/12, 3/29/12; Post-Gazette.com, 5/6/12; Seattle Times, 3/28/12

Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh, PA

On 7/30/07, Kenneth G. Miller stabbed his 69-year-old father to death and himself in the neck at home in Lower Macungie Township. His mother, Marjorie Miller said her son, had been delusional from not taking his medication. Two days before, she pleaded with a mental health crisis worker to admit him to a hospital. But the crisis worker said he did not feel he was a danger to himself or others. Miller called

again the next day and was told someone would see her son the following day. Ken was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder in 1989, and has been in former Allentown General Hospital, Allentown State Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital-Fountain Hill. Kenneth Miller was also a psych patient at Sacred Heart 6/4-11 and at St. Luke's, which released him a week before his father's killing. He stayed at his parents house, but fearing he was still unstable, they took his car keys. "He loved his father. They never had a cross word," "His father loved him." The Morning Call, 8/2/07

Penn Hills, Allegheny, PA

On 8/28/07, Troy Hill Jr., 18, fatally stabbed Tyron Hill, one of his 11-year-old twin half-brothers, and critically injured the other twin, Tyrel. Troy Hill Sr. criticized the mental health system. The family had called Western Psychiatric Institute, because Troy Hill Jr. was showing increasing signs of paranoia and quit work because he thought his co-workers were talking about him. Western Psych told the family to keep monitoring their son's behavior. Pittsburgh Tribune Review, 9/7/07

West Deer, Allegheny, PA

In 9/2011, 74-year-old James and Carol Ann Yeckel were fatally shot by son, 52-year-old James Yeckel Jr. who had a history of mental illness. His sister said their mother was concerned over her son's behavior and told her she was afraid of him. WPIX.com, 3/30/12; WYTV, 4/14/12

Allentown, Lehigh, PA

On 5/11/12, 38-year-old Rafael Tirado fatally stabbed his mother, 64-year-old Gloria Santiago, in home they shared. Tirado had a long history of mental illness and had been in and out of mental health facilities since he was about 18. Morning Call, 5/12/12

On 1/25/11, 26-year-old Matthew D. Priset, who suffered from mental illness, fatally stabbed 28-year-old Clinton A. Perry in Perry's home. Priset, diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, was hospitalized at least six times between 2008 and 2010. SunGazette.com, 2/1/11; Williamsport Sun-Gazette, 6/30/12; Press Connects, 8/21/12

Beaver, Beaver, PA

On 7/4/12, 58-year-old Peter Kuchynsky, diagnosed with schizophrenia, attacked 82-year-old Gerald Rooney, Jr., a fellow patient in the mental health unit of Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital. Rooney died on 7/8 of head trauma. Pittsburgh.CBSLocal.com, 7/10/12; Times Online, 8/2/12

Bethlehem, Northampton, PA

On 8/20/12, 51-year-old mentally ill Michael Lindgren attacked his parents, injuring 78-year-old John Ralph "J.R." Lindgren and killing 77-year-old Shirley Lindgren. He told police he "had to kill them.". A half-hour before the incident, he had gone to Bethlehem police

station and asked for help in making a phone call, but became agitated and left. Before this, the Lindgrens had filed a petition in Northampton County Court seeking a mental-health commitment for their son. Morning Call, 8/21/12, 12/11/12

McCandless, Allegheny, PA

On 1/6/09, 41-year-old Eric Huesmann fatally shot his father, Emil Huesmann, after an argument when his father demanded to watch Eric Huesmann take his medication for schizophrenia. Allegheny County deputy district attorney, said "His father was trying to impress upon him how important it was to take his medication. Unfortunately that didn't happen." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1/14/09, 10/14/10; Associated Press, 10/15/10

Bethlehem, Northampton, PA

On 1/21 Sonnie L. Thomas, 49, bludgeoned his neighbor Carlos Selank Garcia, 19 with a samurai sword and set the body on fire to rid it of evil spirits. Thomas has paranoid schizophrenia and has been hospitalized numerous times for his mental illness. Thomas has been held in prison without bail since his arrest and is properly medicated. Allentown Morning Call - 11/7/05, 12/23/05, 1/1/06

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

On 4/12/07, Marvae Dunn walked up to the car that his sister-in-law, Tamika Dozier Ingram, was sitting in with her step-daughter, Tkeyah Brown, 11, and fatally shot Ingram four times in the head and body as Tkeyah watched. Family members told investigators that Dunn is schizophrenic. Philadelphia Daily News, 4/13/07

Allentown, Lehigh, PA

On 4/27/06, Bruce McKiel, killed 87-year-old Robert E. Kistler of Allentown by punching him in the face for no apparent reason as he was crossing the street near 10th and Allen streets. McKiel, has a history of schizophrenia. Allentown Morning Call, 10/2/07

Conshohocken, Montgomery, PA

On 12/15/07, Joseph Giongo beat his wife to death in front of their youngest son, 7-year-old Quinn who attempted to call police and leave to get help. The boy watched his father slam his mother's head against the kitchen table. Prior History: Joseph Giongo's family was concerned that he would harm them and had previously had him involuntarily committed. After a two-week stay, he was released. He stopped taking his medications and killed his wife. Norristown Times Herald, 2/10/09; The Pottstown Mercury, 3/7/10; Philadelphia Inquirer, 5/25/10

East Bradford, Chester, PA

On 3/16/09, Sean M. Scott, 39, smothered his mother, Delores Scott, with a pillow in her bedroom. The defendant's brother, Brendan Scott, noticed his brother's bipolar condition worsening, and said Sean who has mental health issues moved into his mother's house in 1998 and is taking multiple medications. Four days before the his mother's death, he was arrested by Westtown East Goshen Regional police after he threw a cinder block through the window of a police patrol. Sean Scott resisted arrest, prompting the officer to deploy his Taser on the defendant twice to take him into custody. Pottstown Mercury, 3/17/09; Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/18/09

Allentown, Lehigh, PA

On 3/20/05, Roger F. Scanlan, a 45-year-old man with a long history of mental illness, fatally stabbed his parents in their Allentown apartment, and then committed suicide. Scanlan had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and cycled through psychiatric

hospitals for more than 20 years. He would get stabilized on medications for 30 days, sign himself out and return to a relative's home or his parents' apartment. Inevitably, he would stop taking his medications, and become delusional. Allentown Assistant Police Chief Ronald Manescu said police had been called to the Scanlans' apartment eight times. Allentown Morning Call, 3/23/05, 3/27/05, 8/5/07

Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA

On 10/12/06, Branden Rys, 18, got a baseball bat out of the dining room and using at least ten swings beat his mother Patricia Bente, 50 to death. He rolled her over and beat her a half-dozen more times about the head and face. A neighbor said Rys suffered from bipolar disorder but that he was fine as long as he took his medicine. Patricia Bente talked about her fears that her son might hurt her one day because he was bipolar. Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 10/14/06; KDKA, 10/20/06

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Juan Covington shot hospital worker Trish McDermott, an X-ray technician at Pennsylvania Hospital, early on 5/17/05 in the head as she was walking to work. Covington told police that McDermott's radiation and "psychotropic" attacks gave him headaches, chest pains and a soft penis. Covington has a history of mental illness and had been off medication for his illness for more than a decade. Prior History: Covington confessed to fatally shooting his cousin, the Rev. Thomas Lee Devlin, during a prayer service in Philadelphia in 1998. Covington told police he stopped Devlin's "witchcraft" by bursting into the service and pumping 11 bullets into him. He said he wore a mask that day, not to protect himself from arrest, but to save him from his cousin's evil powers. Covington also confessed to fatally shooting Odies Bosket, 36, in the head on 3/7/05 at North Philadelphia SEPTA subway stop. He sought mental-health treatment in the late 1980s. In 1993, Covington decided that he was well and went off medication. Philadelphia Daily News, 7/18/05; CentreDaily.com, 7/21/05; Philadelphia Daily News, 8/9/05

Drexel Hill, Delaware, PA

On 7/23/05, 29-year-old Michael Rafferty fatally stabbed his mother, 55-year-old Rita Rafferty, and his father, 67-year-old Thomas Rafferty. After killing his parents, Rafferty ran across the street to a neighbor's home and stabbed 40-year-old Suzette Sofield in the chest twice. On 8/18/05, Rafferty died by ramming his head into a wall. Prior History: Since 1999, Rafferty had been diagnosed with bipolar, paranoia, and delusional behavior. Rafferty had a history of hospitalizations and threatening family members. Several weeks before the murders, Rafferty was arrested for threatening two Upper Darby men with a knife and taken by police to Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital for psychiatric evaluation. The doctor who evaluated Rafferty noted he had stopped his medication. The doctor concluded Rafferty was untreatable and posed an ongoing risk of danger to himself and others. On 7/5/05, Rafferty was discharged from the hospital and released to police custody. He was arraigned on criminal charges that day and remanded to the county prison after he failed to post bail. On 7/21, a friend posted bail, allowing for Rafferty's release. Two days later, Rafferty killed his parents and a neighbor. Philadelphia Daily News, 7/25/05; Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/24/05; The Sentinel, 2/16/07; Delco Daily Times, 2/16/07

Freedom, Beaver, PA

Thomas Simich Jr., a 45-year-old deaf man with mental illness, killed his sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Steven Bergman, in the

family home in Freedom, PA on 5/2/05. He told police he thought the victims belonged to a cocaine cartel and that he was a federal narcotics agent. Family members said they noticed Simich began acting strangely several years before the murders, sending threatening messages to his cousin and talking to people who weren't there. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10/7/05; Beaver County Times, 10/10/05

Kittanning, Armstrong, PA

On 12/18/06, Christoffer Bradley Reddinger, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, fatally shot his uncle, James Allen Frederick, 44, of Kittanning as he left his custodial job at Kittanning High School. Reddinger, 23, exhibited symptoms of the manic state of the disorder before he killed his uncle and during the police interviews, when he wasn't medicated. Leader Times, 1/30/08; Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 9/9/08, 1/22/09; Kittanning Leader-Times, 10/16/08

Middletown, Delaware, PA

On 11/10/09, Johnathan Thomas Trueheart drove a Ford Explorer at a high rate of speed through Parkside and Brookhaven and crashed in Middletown — killing Joseph Sherlock, 33, and injuring two others. Trueheart fled his vehicle and tried to hide under one of the damaged pickups. At the time of the crash, he was suffering from schizophrenia and just weeks before his parents sought in-patient placement. It didn't work. After the crash he was involuntarily committed. Trueheart is now on antipsychotic medication and his mental illness has stabilized. Delaware County Times, 11/18/09; Montgomery News, 5/20/10

Cranberry Township, Venango, PA

On 1/13/10, Michael J. Smith killed his wife, State Trooper Paul Richey, and himself at the couple's home. Trooper Richey volunteered to handle a call that came in because he knew Mr. Smith from his earlier spats with neighbors. When Trooper Richey pulled up to the house, Smith fired a bullet striking him in the neck, above his bulletproof vest. When tactical officers entered the home, they found Smith shot himself and his wife. Prior History: In 3/1997, Smith went to his wife's workplace, and threatened to kill her. She got an order of protection. In 6/1997, less than four months later, Mrs. Smith discontinued the protection order, saying she was no longer in fear of her husband after Mr. Smith agreed to take medication prescribed by his psychiatrist. "My husband has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, she wrote to the judge. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1/15/10

Southampton Township, Bedford, PA

On 3/31/08, Harold I. Turner, 29, killed his father, Harold L. Turner, by striking him twice in the head and forehead with a wood-splitting maul. He turned himself in to authorities in Summit County, Ohio. He was sentenced to 10 to 40 years in a state prison facility equipped to treat him for severe mental illness. Turner, 31, told a psychiatrist with Bedford-Somerset Mental Health that he killed his father, Harold L. Turner, 60, nearly two years ago because voices told him to do it. The Tribune-Democrat, 6/5/08; Johnstown Tribune Democrat, 2/17/10

Bitner, Fayette, PA

On 2/10/10, 29-year-old Henry Noah Earley used a spade shovel and a knife to kill his girlfriend, 30-year-old Rebecca Lynn Dimatteo. Earley was arrested after police found him wandering in the early morning on Route 51 in North Union Township. Subsequent History: On 3/6/12, the 31-year-old Earley was sentenced to a maximum of

20 to 40 years in prison, but with the condition he undergo a mental health evaluation for possible placement in a "suitable treatment facility." Earley, pleaded guilty but mentally ill to third-degree homicide in Dimatteo's death. A psychiatrist testified that Earley, who had a history of mental illness, believed demons were about to attack him and his family in the moments prior to Dimatteo's death. Post-Gazette.com, 2/10/10; Tribune-Review, 3/7/12

Erie, Erie, PA

On 9/9/05, Richard Patton, a mentally ill man, fatally shot Steven Lynton. The case was delayed while doctors worked to get Patton mentally stable enough to go through trial. He has been diagnosed repeatedly with bipolar disease with psychotic features. Experts for the prosecution examined Patton prior to trial and found him to be legally insane at the time of the killing -- or incapable of distinguishing right from wrong. That finding allowed Patton to pursue an insanity defense, but he refused. Patton told jurors that he did not shoot Lynton. During his trial, Patton maintained that no one saw him shoot anybody, though his trial was replete with uncontradicted evidence that he killed Lynton. "It was some kind of mistaken identity, some kind of hocus-pocus. I don't understand," Patton said. In rambling testimony, he also said he joined the CIA when he was 15 and invented the McDonald's hamburger and Burger King. Erie Times-News, 4/26/08; 5/7/08, 6/13/08

Norristown, Montgomery, PA

On 3/5/11, 23-year-old Joseph McAndrew Jr. killed his parents, 70-year-old Joseph Sr. and 64-year-old Susan, and twin brother James. The victims who had multiple cuts and lacerations and police found multiple knives and a blood covered samurai sword in the home. McAndrew has schizophrenia and told police there was an "extermination" by an "attacker" and the victims were a "person called father," a "person called mother" and a "person called brother." Some friends reported James McAndrew, Joseph Jr.'s twin, openly discussed his brother's schizophrenia. McAndrew was considered to be incompetent to address charges he killed three members of his family. At the subsequent 6/2011 hearing, a correctional officer at the county jail testified that McAndrew had begun to speak again after he was placed on medications. Since his arrest, McAndrew had been held at Norristown State Hospital, a facility used to house criminal suspects in need of mental health treatment. UPI, 3/7/11; Philly.com, 3/8/11, 3/9/11; NewsWorks, 3/8/11; NBCPhiladelphia.com, 3/7/11; The Times-Herald, 6/6/11; Pottstown Mercury, 6/24/11; Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/17/11, 2/15/12; Journal Register, 8/2/12

Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA

On 5/29/08, 37-year-old Terrence Andrews fatally stabbed his neighbor 18-year-old Lisa Maas with scissors. When police arrived at the scene, they found Andrews covered with blood and coming out of Maas' apartment. He had a knife and a pair of scissors in his pockets. Andrews confessed on the spot. Andrews, who has a history of mental illness, had visited Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic to seek help. Even though Andrews, who received outpatient services from the Oakland mental health center, told medical personnel he was homicidal, he was not admitted for inpatient treatment. Andrews told police that he decided to kill Maas on 5/29/08, after she insulted him about his body odor. "I told people I was going to kill someone," Mr. Andrews said to police officers moments after the crime, claiming he had warned a doctor that his medication was not working. WTAE.com, 5/30/08; PittsburghLive.com, 5/31/08; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 3/22/11

Chester, Delaware, PA On 7/7/07, Maurice Milbourne killed his 79-year-old grandmother, Gladys Milbourne after he was homeless and had just gotten out of jail a month earlier on an unrelated offense. Maurice Milbourne was legally insane and responding to "voices" when he fatally beat and stabbed his grandmother in 7/2007. Milbourne suffered from Schizophrenia for more than a decade and because he is poor, was not able to obtain proper treatment or the medication to help him. The trial was delayed because in 2008, Milbourne was found to be incompetent and sent to Norristown State Hospital for treatment. On 5/6/11, attorneys agreed that 26-year-old Maurice Milbourne who beat and then slashed the throat of his grandmother was mentally ill. Daily Times, 4/15/11, 5/9/11; Daily Local News, 5/9/11

Fort Wayne, Allen, PA

On 6/27/09, 17-year-old Aaron Lloyd Randolph killed 48-year-old Denise A. Barrone, his mother's twin sister by stabbing her to death, after a fishing trip. To make sure she was dead, Randolph grabbed a large sword and struck her several times with it. On 6/10/11, 19-year-old Aaron Lloyd Randolph was involuntarily committed to the state psychiatric hospital. Randolph, diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and mental disabilities, was found not guilty by reason of insanity in 4/for the death of his aunt. FortWayne.com, 6/8/09; Journal Gazette, 6/11/11

Albany Township, Berks, PA

On 6/29/11, Matthew M. Connor fatally shot a Berks County Deputy Kyle D. Pagerly near Connor's family home before he was fatally shot by police. Mathew was diagnosed with schizophrenia and struggled with mental illness almost all his life. Matthew was too disruptive to live in the house so he slept in a van and a tent in the nearby woods. Connor's father said he and his wife tried hard to help their son for many years, urging him to get help and paying for his therapy, but nothing worked. Reading Eagle, 7/1/11

Bethlehem, Northampton, PA

Sometime between 6/15 and 6/17/11, William J. Ward fatally stabbed his girlfriend, 29-year-old Trisha Sadler. Sadler had told a friend to call police if she was not at work because she suspected Ward might try to hurt her. The victim's body had been severed into 14 pieces. Police took Ward into custody after a nearly day-long standoff at Sadler's home, where Ward yelled to police: "You won't take me alive." Ward, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, was sentenced to life in prison without parole at his request. Express-Times, 10/8/12

Leola, Lancaster, PA

On 6/16/12, 22-year-old Gary Charles Gerlach strangled his girlfriend 22-year-old Makenzie Hess with a belt, fatally beat her mother Mona Hess with a hammer and performed sex acts on the bodies after he killed them. On 11/7/12 Gerlach was incompetent to assist in his defense at trial. He was later restored to competency and is facing charges. ABC27.com 6/16/12; Intelligencer Journal, 12/7/12

4/2005

Solebury Township, Bucks, PA

Jon Czarny, 48, a man with a history of drug problems and depression, beat his wife with a rolling pin at home, stabbed her to death, and then committed suicide in a shopping center parking lot on 4/22/05. An empty bottles of antidepressant medication were found beside his body. At the home, police found a document from a mental health clinic labeled "My suicide/self-injury behavior prevention program." In 2/2005, Jon Czarny attempted suicide by slitting his wrists, and then voluntarily committed himself to the Horsham Clinic. After two weeks, he checked himself out. Within days of arriving home, he had written a suicide note dated 3/6/05, which police found after his death. The Beacon (PA), 4/27/05; Philadelphia Inquirer, 4/24/05

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS KILLED OR INJURED IN INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO WERE FORCED TO STEP IN WHEN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM FAILED:

Middlecreek Township, Snyder, PA

On 6/11/10, 45-year-old Kayre Snyder was holding three people hostage in his home for about 14 hours before he was killed by a state police sniper when he came outside just before sunrise, armed and still refusing to surrender. A family friend reported that Snyder had suffered from mental illness for years. She blamed the mental health system for failing them. WNEP, 6/18/10; PennLive.com, 6/18/10; NorthCentraPa.com, 6/18/10

Washington, Washington, PA

On 11/21/09, 49-year-old Ronald Petruney, who had been tased by police earlier in the week, died at Washington Hospital. The incident began when an officer found Petruney lying in the street near his apartment on 11/17. Authorities report that Petruney attempted to get up and walk away, but was disoriented and would not follow police orders; instead, charging at the officials which resulted in a struggle. Officials said Petruney was known to have mental health issues and had reportedly been in trouble with police before. KDKA.com, 11/21/09; Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 6/18/10

6/2010

Middlecreek Township, Snyder, PA

On 6/11/10, 45-year-old Kayre Snyder was holding three people hostage in his home for about 14 hours before he was killed by a state police sniper when he came outside just before sunrise, armed and still refusing to surrender. A family friend reported that Snyder had suffered from mental illness for years. She blamed the mental health system for failing them. WNEP, 6/18/10; PennLive.com, 6/18/10; NorthCentraPa.com, 6/18/10

11/2012

Dalton, Lackawanna, PA

On 11/7/12, 42-year-old Brian Williams was fatally shot by police. Police shot Williams as they were trying to serve him with a mental health warrant. WFMJ, 11/8/12

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

On 4/28/09, Anthony Temple, 27, a schizophrenic, was shot and killed by an unnamed policeman when he tried to take another officer's gun on Warnock Street near Lindley. Temple's sister Kisha Grier said that she was shocked that her brother had been shot by the police. Grier said that her brother, who grew up in Logan, had been diagnosed with schizophrenia years ago. Philadelphia Daily News, 4/29/09

Scranton, Lackawanna, PA

On 5/28/09, Brenda Williams, 52, was fatally shot by police. Scranton police were called to Williams' apartment after reports that she had been harassing neighbors all day. Police found her naked, screaming at them, and roaming all about the apartment. Police knew that Williams suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. At that point, Williams allegedly disappeared into the kitchen, grabbed an eight-inch kitchen knife and went after police who shot and killed her. Scranton WNEP.com, 6/16/09; Times-Tribune, 3/15/10

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Jevon Lampkin, 23, died on 7/20/05 from gunshot wounds suffered during an encounter with police the previous day in Philadelphia, PA. Police said Lt. Michael Kopecki encountered Lampkin, naked, agitated and approaching passers-by. Before he could get out of the patrol car, Lampkin reached in the driver's-side window and tried to get Kopecki's gun, then struck Kopecki in the face and started climbing in through the window. Kopecki got control of his gun, and fired twice, hitting Lampkin. Prior History: "Sharon Lampkin said of her son. "He was not acting like himself." Within the past few weeks, Lampkin was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. It was so recent that treatment had not been set, nor the medications prescribed. Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/22/05

Indiana, Allegheny, PA

Joseph Stank, a man with schizophrenia was shot and killed by a police officer in Indiana, PA on 3/23/05. Stank, who was known to carry a pellet gun for protection, had just left Indiana Area Senior High School, where he had been begging for work. Disheveled, agitated and possibly intoxicated, he emerged from the school and was met by Indiana Police Detective Scott Schuller, who was responding to a 911 call of a man with a gun on the high school campus. Stank pointed a pellet pistol at Schuller, refusing a command to drop the weapon that closely resembled a conventional handgun. Schuller fired. Indiana County Chief Deputy Coroner Mike Baker said Stank recently had been released from Armstrong County Memorial Hospital after spending a month in the psychiatric unit, where he had been treated for schizophrenia, severe anxiety and paranoia. Subsequent History: The Indiana County district attorney ruled the fatal shooting justifiable.

These are based on media reports and prepared by Mental Illness Policy Org by culling and editing information in the Treatment Advocacy Center Database of Preventable Tragedies. We make no representations on the above.