

Case Study: Amanda M.

Background: Amanda M., a 60-year-old woman diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, has a long history of non-compliance with her prescribed mental health treatment, which has led to multiple involuntary commitments and legal interventions. Most recently, Amanda was hospitalized under a 302 commitment at a Regional Psychiatric Hospital in August 2024. Her case is now being supported by Justice Related Services and monitored through mental health court. Before this intervention, Amanda exhibited erratic behavior, housing instability, and substance abuse, all exacerbated by her refusal to adhere to her treatment plan since July 2021. She denied her diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder.

Legal and Medical History: Amanda has been involved in various legal incidents over the years, including charges of defiant trespass and disorderly conduct, mainly stemming from her mental health condition. In 2021-2022, she was committed to a local community hospital under a 302, 303, and 304b commitment following an assault on a staff member at a care facility. Since then, her refusal to take her medication has resulted in evictions, homelessness, and interactions with several police departments across different municipalities. She has consistently exhibited delusional thinking, believing that others are stealing from her or conspiring against her.

Following her August 2024 -302 commitment at a Regional Psychiatric Hospital, Amanda is now compliant with her medication and has shown signs of improvement in her behavior. She is supervised by Justice Related Services and is scheduled for a court hearing on October 29, 2024, and Mental Health Court, which is helping to resolve her legal issues and adding the carrot needed to get her compliant with her medication regime.

Recent Progress and Incident Report: On October 12, 2024, an IKOR team member met with Amanda and a Nurse Practitioner at her mental health practice to discuss any current issues with her medications. This visit was to obtain her second long-acting injection of an atypical antipsychotic medication. These monthly injections instead of daily oral medication make long-term medication compliance more straightforward. Amanda has shown considerable improvement, including increased socialization, reduced anger, and a willingness to engage in conversations since her hospital stay. Amanda requested increased trazodone and duloxetine, citing ongoing sleep difficulties, showing insight into the benefits of the medication and cooperation with her care plan. Amanda's next appointment was scheduled for November 10, 2024, despite her request to be seen earlier due to her upcoming court hearing on October 30, 2024. Her request to be seen earlier shows her motivation to work with the mental health court to get beyond her legal concerns.

After the appointment, Amanda picked up her psychiatric prescriptions at the pharmacy and walked back to her apartment. Amanda was at risk of being evicted, but after returning from the hospital with different behaviors, her lease had been renewed, allowing her to remain in her current housing. She smiled and agreed that she felt better, indicating positive mental health progress.

Medication Compliance and Court Proceedings:

Amanda received her scheduled Invega injection without issue. Despite prior erratic behaviors, she is now cooperative with her treatment plan and cooperative to work with.

Summary for Legal Context:

- **Current Compliance:** Amanda is now compliant with her prescribed medication regimen and is demonstrating improved mental health, as evidenced by her cooperation, reduced delusions, and increased socialization. She remains under the supervision of Justice Related Services and the mental health court, along with an outpatient treatment team.
- **Mental Health Status:** Though Amanda's condition has improved following her August 2024 hospitalization, she continues to require ongoing psychiatric care. Her medications were adjusted to manage her symptoms better, particularly her insomnia, which she reported during her recent psychiatric appointment.
- **Housing Stability:** Amanda's lease has been renewed, providing her with stable housing for the foreseeable future. She is willing to continue living in her current apartment, a notable shift from her previous behavior. Based on previous behaviors, she was at risk of eviction at this apartment, but with our collaboration with them and her improvements, they agreed to renew the lease.
- **Upcoming Legal Proceedings:** Amanda has an upcoming court hearing on October 29, 2024, related to her prior legal issues. She has been informed of the proceedings, has an attorney she trusts, and has the necessary documentation. Transportation for the hearing has been arranged.
- **Third-Party Special Needs Trust** – Amanda has a third-party special needs trust that allows her to have the ongoing support and advocacy of IKOR while making her eligible for public benefits and community mental health services not otherwise easily obtained by individuals with private insurance and considerable assets.

Conclusion:

Amanda M.'s case highlights the importance of continued legal and psychiatric support to manage her mental health condition. While she is currently compliant with treatment and is cooperative, her history suggests that ongoing supervision and structured support will be necessary to prevent future relapses. Her progress, both in terms of medication compliance and behavioral improvements, should be taken into consideration during her upcoming court hearing.