

Sample Report #2

March 24, 2003

Ms. Sharon Williams
Disability Determination Services
P.O. Box 6442
Baltimore, MD 21094-6338

Re: Annette Farnsworth
DOB: 9/1/58
SSN: 222-22-2222

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Annette Farnsworth is a 44-year-old, divorced, Caucasian female who has a lengthy history of homelessness and untreated psychotic illness. Ms. Farnsworth has a mannish cut to her hair (it is very short), and she tends to dress in what would usually be considered mannish clothes — trousers, loose fitting shirts, boots. She is dirty and has especially dirty finger nails. Her volume of speech is low. She is 5'6" and reports weighing 125 pounds, noting "I've always been gouty — unhealthy looking." She wears dentures and has small round scars on her right arm that she describes are "black beads that came up through the arm because of the leukemia. They're highly deadly. This happens when I get near a church." Ms. Farnsworth's conversation is replete with delusional somatic references and is extremely difficult to follow. Factual information is interspersed with psychotic material so the history is confusing and unclear. She speaks very sincerely, with sadness and pain, as she describes the number of health difficulties that she has had and continues to have. These have not been confirmed by treatment providers.

Ms. Farnsworth was originally referred to the SSI Project in the summer of 2002. Her application and disability report were completed at Project Believe, a drop-in center for individuals who are homeless and who have serious and persistent mental illness. Then, she disappeared from that center and did not return. Prior to this referral, she had been receiving treatment from Holy Cross Hospital. They lost contact with her as well. Despite further contact with Project Believe, Health Care for the Homeless, and other sources, Ms. Farnsworth was lost.

In January, 2003, the former SSI Project Director was volunteering in the evening at a shelter and re-connected with Ms. Farnsworth. Immediate follow-up was arranged to which Ms. Farnsworth agreed, and we have finally been able to stay connected with her and complete the process. The aim is to connect her with additional mental health services, but this process will proceed slowly and carefully as we do not want to lose her again. She has a severe psychotic illness and definitely needs treatment, assistance, and support.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Ms. Farnsworth was born and raised in Richmond, VA. She said that she has two younger brothers and one younger sister but that she never grew up with them. She said that, when she was 18 months old, her mother took her to Texas. There, she was hit by a “cyclone/tornado/hurricane” and “was thrown” by the storm and “got hurt. Got a brain infection and I was in a coma from then until I was 4 years old.”

When her mother found out how sick she was, Ms. Farnsworth said, and she found out that Ms. Farnsworth’s neck and back were fractured and that she had “polasia, which is part of leukemia” and “needed to be in a quiet place,” her mother called several states. She finally found help here, in central Maryland, and took Ms. Farnsworth to stay with a “guardian,” a Mr. Higgins. Ms. Farnsworth said, “He says I’m an orphan and Lynette [her mother] was his friend and found me and gave me to him.”

Ms. Farnsworth also mentioned that her father died when she was 20 months old. She said that he was an electrician and hit wires on the ground and died.

For the rest of her growing up years, Ms. Farnsworth stayed with Mr. Higgins. She said that she married at age 23, and he died when she was 24 years old. She has not spoken with her mother in 15–16 years and is uncertain if her mother is still alive.

Since she was married at age 23, Ms. Farnsworth has had 5 children, all of whom are in foster care because “I have been too sick to see them.” Ms. Farnsworth said that she was divorced in 1990. She said that all her children were “a surprise” and “they have disabilities.” She described the children as follows:

- (1) Anna Marie Frances, b. 5/25/85, who Ms. Farnsworth said “might have cerebral palsy.”
- (2) William Allan Hightower Wood, b. 7/24/86 — “a surprise.”
- (3) Christopher Robert Timber, b. 2/22/88.
- (4) Scott Timothy Brown Timber b. 6/22/89.
- (5) Elmore France Madrid Prune, b. 5/29/98. “I’m not sure if he had all his organs,” said Ms. Farnsworth.

Regarding her education, Ms. Farnsworth said that she left school at age 15, in the 10th grade. She said that she was in special education. The last school she attended was Transit High School, where she was for one year. She said that she was “too sick” to stay there, and the principal “said I should be on leave.” She said, “I was bleeding in school” and “couldn’t see.” She said that she “left. I didn’t quit.”

According to Ms. Farnsworth, she has no work history because she was been unable to work because of being too sick.

In 1980, Ms. Farnsworth was arrested for a DWI; this was later dropped.

When she was a child, Ms. Farnsworth said, she had SSI. She said that her guardian, Mr. Higgins, who was also her grandfather, died. She said that she couldn’t get her check after he died because

she couldn't walk to the SSA office on Connor Street. She currently has "nothing." She said that she has been homeless for about a year and stays "in the immediate neighborhood. Most of the time, I'm in the fresh air."

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Ms. Farnsworth presents a confusing history of physical health problems. She said that she is being treated at Charity Hospital for "Franchrascicon Broyde" cysts and sees a Dr. Miller there. She said that she had an operation there to try to find these cysts; she still has a cyst under her rib cage and treats this with aspirin, special food, fluids, vitamins, ice, and Sudafed. She said that she had a chromosome analysis at the Washington Optical Clinic at Taylor Evans Hospital because she is going blind. She said that she had a stroke after the operation and was in South Christian shelter. She said, there, she "dropped dead" and was "told to go in the fresh air."

Regarding her medical history, Ms. Farnsworth also said that she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and polio at birth. She said she had leukemia and is waiting for treatment at Tyler Hospital. She also described being partially deaf and said she had lost her voice as well. She reports receiving treatment between Union Hospital, Taylor Evans Hospital, and Charity. She said she also has "dwarfisms that cause her to grow tumors. After [she] gets rid of one, [she] grows another. I smell because of the drainage." Ms. Farnsworth also said that the doctors keep "looking for the cerebral palsy tumors that keep me stupid. I have to eat special food and special water." In January of this year, Ms. Farnsworth reported having tumors that are coming out through her bowels and are quite painful. As a little girl, she said, she had a "blood clot in her brain and was going to die. I was in Shadsworth at Texas General Hospital. The doctor said you're very sick. [He said} you have to go. I'm going to give you a ride because [you're] smart."

According to Ms. Farnsworth, she has had eye surgery at Washington Optical Clinic and an "internal investigation" at Taylor Evans. She has received treatment at Charity Hospital over the past 4–5 years and said, "just because I didn't get cut doesn't mean I wasn't cut inside."

SUBSTANCE USE HISTORY

When asked about substance use history, Ms. Farnsworth said that she doesn't drink or "do drugs." When asked if she ever did, she replied, "Not really." Years ago, she was arrested for a DWI that was later dropped. There is no current evidence that she uses any drugs or alcohol.

PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY

Ms. Farnsworth said that she has had "depression of the heart" since she was five years old. She reports no psychiatric hospitalizations. She said that she was seen at Taylor Evans for psychiatric outpatient treatment and at Union for "psychiatry with dentistry." She also said that she received case management services through Freedom Hospital. She said that the case manager "took me to the hospital for a psychological investigation." She was to receive medication and said her case manager "went to get the medicine and never came back."

Both Union Hospital and Taylor Evans have no records of treatment of Ms. Farnsworth. On 3/25/02, Ms. Farnsworth was interviewed by the director of the mobile treatment program (MTP) at Holy Cross and was accepted for admission. The interview took place on the street. For the rest of the month of March, she was seen two more times by the mobile treatment therapist but was not very cooperative.

On 4/2/02, Ms. Farnsworth was scheduled to see a psychiatrist at the MTP. She was seen on this date by her therapist on the street but refused to see the psychiatrist. She was rescheduled for 4/9/02. However, on that date, she again refused and was finally seen for an evaluation on 4/16/02. On that date, she had her initial treatment plan completed, was diagnosed with a psychotic disorder NOS, and Zyprexa, 10 mg each day, was initiated. Other diagnoses under consideration were delusional disorder, somatic type and alcohol abuse.

On 4/18/02, Ms. Farnsworth was again seen on the street by her MTP therapist/case manager. The MTP staff attempted to transport Ms. Farnsworth to a somatic appointment, but she refused. She was transported to a drop-in program where she was able to shower and change clothes. Her somatic appointment was rescheduled for 4/23.

On 4/23/02, the MTP staff could not locate Ms. Farnsworth. Another attempt on 4/30 was also unsuccessful. Therefore, she did not keep scheduled somatic appointments.

In May, 2002, Ms. Farnsworth was seen once, early in the month, by her MTP worker. Further attempts were made to locate Ms. Farnsworth on the street, at the drop-in center, and in the downtown area but were unsuccessful. Her case was then closed on 5/31/02 because of lack of contact.

In July, 2002, she reported no treatment for three months.

About medication, Ms. Farnsworth said that she takes Theragram and chlortrimeton. She said the chlortrimeton (an antihistamine) “goes after the tumor. It’s a brain medicine devised to be electrical stimulation to freeze dry or move or make the tumor flow away. One wrong move with it and you just explode. I keep on trying to bust that tumor.”

On 2/3/03, Dr. Sagamore, of the Union Hospital ACT Team, and Ms. Harriet Jones, current director of the Special Outreach Project, met with Ms. Farnsworth at Project Believe. Ms. Farnsworth had missed one appointment with Dr. Sagamore but did keep this appointment on time. The evaluation notes: Ms. Farnsworth “...appears a little older than her stated age. She was disheveled, wearing soiled clothes and multiple layers; she was somewhat malodorous. She made good eye contact. Speech was normal pace and volume...Ms. Farnsworth’s mood was euthymic, affect was odd and somewhat restricted. Thought processes were quite disorganized, circumstantial, tangential, and occasionally loose. Ms. Farnsworth’s thought content was largely focused on a variety of apparently delusional somatic concerns; she reports cancer which traveled from her head to her spine to her stomach, dermatology issues, and problems with her feet. She reports that all of these issues are being treated by the ‘crematology department’ at Taylor Evans. Ms. Farnsworth did not report hallucinations. There was no evidence of dangerousness to herself or others, although her ability to care for herself at this time is marginal. Ms. Farnsworth was alert

and oriented to person, place, time, and situation. Insight into her psychiatric illness is nil and judgment is impaired.” Diagnosis was schizophrenia, chronic undifferentiated type.

In addition to this evaluation, Dr. Sagamore determined that Ms. Farnsworth would need a representative payee for her SSI benefits. Dr. Sagamore writes: “Ms. Farnsworth is currently quite psychotic, delusional, and disorganized. She is homeless and living on the streets. She is too disorganized to be able to handle her funds to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.” (It is noteworthy that project staff requested medical records from Taylor Evans, where Ms. Farnsworth states she has received and is currently receiving treatment, and the medical records department staff have said that no records for Ms. Farnsworth exist.)

FUNCTIONAL INFORMATION

Ms. Farnsworth is severely functionally impaired in all major areas. She said that, typically, she “stays out in the fresh air.” Essentially, this means she has no regular shelter. She goes to Project Believe, a drop-in center, from time to time to shower. She eats at a soup kitchen, usually Bread & Bananas. She might walk to the Outer Bay Harbor. She said, “I’ve been asked to stay where there’s a lot of people so I go there. People give me food. It’s been spiritual.” At 10–11 p.m., she leaves downtown and “comes back to the neighborhood.” The neighborhood around Project Believe is east city, not an especially safe area to be staying outside. “Every day is the same,” Ms. Farnsworth said.

According to Ms. Farnsworth, she knows how to cook chicken, pork chops, scrapple, canned vegetables, and soup. She, however, has not done this in some time. She said that she receives food stamps and eats mostly at the 7/11. She said, “I like to eat a lot of food. I have a touch of cholera that has lots of acid and I have to eat 2–3 meals to get enough food. The food acts like a bumper to knock the tumor out.” She does not use a phone or phone directory and does not shop or clean. When she can, she washes her clothes at Project Believe. She reported last showering “four months ago because I was told to stay dry. But I’ve been out in the rain and that washes my face and hands each day.” Ms. Farnsworth feels that she can manage funds on her own because she has a “bank with me.” She walks everywhere but describes having pain in her legs and having difficulty walking.

Socially, Ms. Farnsworth is truly alone. She is isolated and easily becomes frustrated around other people. At the emergency shelter one night, she became quite agitated and almost required intervention to go to the hospital. She was able to calm down, however. She becomes upset easily and her conversation becomes even more confusing and hard to follow. She is clearly trying to communicate clearly but is not doing so. She becomes very frustrated when others don’t follow what she is saying. She said that she has friends but doesn’t know their names, addresses, or phone numbers. She seems to move through the world very alone, scared, and unsupported.

Cognitively, Ms. Farnsworth has an extremely difficult time remembering tasks such as appointments. She is so preoccupied with her somatic worries that they often consume all her attention. She remarks, “Sometimes, right after one of these episodes, I can forget everything and have to relearn it.” She pays close attention but does not seem able to repeat what someone has said to her. She also is somewhat suspicious of others and is somewhat hypervigilant.

SUMMARY

Ms. Farnsworth has a severe psychotic illness that has caused her to be homeless, hungry, and ill cared for. She has extensive somatic delusions that consume her attention and take all her energy. She insists that she is not “crazy” and that the reason she would receive SSI is because of her ongoing and serious physical health problems. She is consistently hungry and, while she has been able to meet very basic needs, her self care has clearly deteriorated. Ms. Farnsworth is in need of gentle and ongoing psychiatric support and treatment, case management, housing services, and an array of other programs to help restore her to some minimal functioning on a regular basis. She is clearly disabled at this time and unable to work.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Jones at 444-444-4444 or Dr. Sagamore at 444-555-5555.

Sincerely,

Harriet Jones, LCSW-C
Project Director

Winnie Sagamore, M.D.
Medical Director
ACT Program