



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor
Mr. O.E.C. Ottley
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/068/2021-2022

Philipsburg, November 2, 2021

Re: Questions from MP A.E. Arrindell regarding concerns of mental health care patients

Hon. Minister Ottley,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. A.E. Arrindell (IS/196/2021-2022 dated November 1, 2021), according to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

Pursuant to article 69a of the Rules of Order, if you are unable to answer the questions within three weeks please notify my person stating the underlying reason. In doing so you can send the answers that you already have and answer the remaining questions in writing within (another period of) three weeks.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



Akeem E. Arrindell
Member of Parliament
Sint Maarten

To:
The President of Parliament
The Honorable Mr. R. Brison
Parliament of St. Maarten
Wilhelminastraat # 1,
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

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| Par. | 15 | GR | |

October 29th, 2021

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, I hereby request that you forward the attached questions to the Minister of VSA, the Honorable Omar Ottley.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,


Akeem E. Arrindell



Member of Parliament
United St. Maarten Party.



Akeem E. Arrindell

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten

The Minister of Public Health, Social Development & Labor
Honorable Minister Omar Ottley
Government Administration Building
Souliga Road #1
Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

October 29th, 2021

Subject: Concerns of mental health care patients

Honorable Minister Ottley,

I am certain that you are aware of the existing situation with persons with mental health issues roaming the streets and those admitted at the Mental Health Foundation facilities. Now, with the decline of economic activities due to COVID-19, many persons are facing financial challenges, due to loss of income, which will most certainly have a major impact on their mental state.

Mental illness can have negative effects on the behavioral habits of individuals and the consequences thereof can be detrimental. In recent past years there were several incidents that resulted to violence that led to injuries to, not only person with the mental health issues, but also to police officers and nurses, as personal restraining actions became necessary. There was an incidents that resulted in the death of a patient contained in a holding cell.

Based on the aforementioned, I hereby put forward several questions for clarity sake.

1. Are there any guidelines in place for the recording of incidents in order to facilitate the reporting and reviewing of incidents for mental health care services with the aim to improve on the quality of service provided to the patients as well as to those providing the service?
2. Are there a structured policy or policies in place for dealing with such incidents? If not, please indicate why not, and if so, please provide the details of the policy(ies)



Akeem E. Arrindell
Member of Parliament
Sint Maarten

3. Now that the police force has stopped offering it's assistance to the MHF (I stand to be corrected), are there any guidelines in place to continue safe guarding the patients and the workers of the MHF, specifically the nurses who are directly involved in restraining sometimes violent patients?

(1/2)

(2/2)

4. As police officers have been trained to deal with violence and how to act, resist and prevent as much harm as possible, have you considered providing the nurses who are directly involved with restraining mental health patients, with similar training on how to prevent harm and to have the knowledge to approach a violet patient and at the same time protect themselves and patient from injuries?

5. Are there any plans to appoint nurses providing help to mental health patients as "buitengewoon agent van politie" as a further means of protection?

6. Presently, there are only 4 nurses administering injections to mental health patients. Are there any plans to expand on the amount of mental health care-takers through training in basic life support, thereby ensuring sufficient trained personnel at hand to alleviate the existing crisis and to also create job opportunities for others?

I thank you, honorable minister, for your kind attention and I look forward with full anticipation to your reply.

Respectfully,


Akeem E. Arrindell



Member of Parliament
United St. Maarten Party