

Senator Manchin's Work on Clarksburg VA Medical Center Investigation:

July 5th 2018: Senator Manchin's office was notified by the VA Inspector General that at least nine in-patients Veterans at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center had been diagnosed with significant hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) of unclear cause over the past 9 months, and that they had opened a medical and criminal investigation into the matter.

July 10th 2018: Senator Manchin sent a letter to then-Acting Secretary of the VA Peter O'Rourke expressing serious concerns about the unexplained episodes of hypoglycemia at the Clarksburg VA. He also clearly stated that he expected VA leadership at every level to cooperate fully with the IG investigation.

August 26th 2019: Retired Army Sergeant Felix McDermott's autopsy report was made public and revealed that the suspicious cases of hypoglycemia in 2018 were likely homicide.

August 27th 2019: Senator Manchin called on IG and FBI to finish the investigation as soon as possible and met with IG Missal and Attorney General Barr.

August 28th 2019: Senator Manchin wrote a letter to his colleagues in the Senate and publicly called on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to conduct an investigation and hearings.

August 30th 2019: Senator Manchin visited the Clarksburg VA and met with Director Snider and staff demanding answers while informing public through press conference at Clarksburg VA.

September 5th 2019: Senator Manchin's staff sent RFI to OIG and FBI asking for the resources required to complete investigation within 30 days. OIG responded that they have all the resources they need.

September 23rd and 24th 2019: Senator Manchin's staff met with VA and VA OIG for a briefing on policies and procedures that impacted the Clarksburg case.

September 25th 2019: During Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, Senator Manchin called again on SVAC to continue investigation and get to bottom of what happened.

September 25th 2019: U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of WV, Bill Powell, asked Senator Manchin to delay any Senate investigation until the criminal investigation is complete so as not to interfere with the ongoing investigation.

November 6th 2019: During a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on nominations, Senator Manchin demanded answers from the VA and challenged VA leadership's role in holding the Clarksburg VA accountable.

December 19th 2019: The Senate passes Senator Manchin's bill, The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019, which requires the VA to submit detailed reports on patient safety and quality of care at VA Medical Centers. Additionally, this bill requires the VA, once the criminal investigations are completed, to submit a detailed report and timeline of events surrounding the deaths at the Clarksburg VA. A companion bill was introduced in the House on January 15th, 2020.

January 29th 2020: At a SVAC hearing, calls again on the DOJ and VA OIG to complete the investigation and provide answers to victims' family members

June 5th 2020: Senator Manchin questions Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie and Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration on the investigation which hit the two year mark during a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing and calls for immediate resolution

July 21st 2020: Senator Manchin meets with VA Inspector General Missal following the plea deal of Reta Mays on July 14th, 2020. Reta Mays, the former nursing assistant at the Clarksburg VA pled guilty to seven counts of second-degree murder and one count of assault with the intent to commit murder of an eighth person. She faces life sentences for each murder. Senator Manchin urged Inspector General Missal to ensure families receive answers and quickly conclude the investigation

October 1st 2020: Senator Manchin introduces legislation to improve transparency at VA Medical Centers by requiring the Secretary of the VA to submit to Congress a report on the use of VA medical centers' security video cameras, a key missing piece of security and patient protection during the Clarksburg VA murders. This legislation would build on Senator Manchin's, The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019

October 10th 2020: Following the tentative settlement between the United States government and the families of six victims, Senator Manchin calls on VA leadership to be held accountable for the murders that happened under their watch, and strongly urges the VA Inspector General to complete their report

December 4th, 2020: Senator Manchin's bill, The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019, was signed into law. The bill passed the House of Representatives in November 2020 and passed the Senate in December 2019 and will require the VA to submit detailed reports on patient safety and quality of care at VA Medical Centers. Additionally, this bill requires the VA, once the criminal investigations are completed, to submit a detailed report and timeline of events surrounding the deaths at the Clarksburg VAMC.

December 16th, 2020: Senator Manchin speaks with VA Inspector General Missal to check on the status of the OIG investigation into Clarksburg VAMC and is briefed that the report will not be released until Reta May's sentencing hearing is completed. Senator Manchin urges Inspector General Missal to publish the report as soon as possible and to brief the VA on any key findings related to management of the Clarksburg VAMC.

March 3rd, 2021: Senator Manchin introduces the Veteran's Camera Reporting Act, which would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit to Congress a report on the use of security cameras in VA medical centers. The legislation would help better address transparency issues at VAMC's in light of the deaths of veterans at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center.

April 13th, 2021: The VA published its Patient Safety and Quality of Care report, which was required by the VA in Senator Manchin's The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019.

May 11th, 2021: Senator Manchin speaks with Inspector General Missal regarding the VA Office of the Inspector General's report on the timeline and events surround the murders at Clarksburg.

May 11th, 2021: Reta Mays' sentencing hearing will take place, which was postponed from February 18-19, 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns.

May 11th, 2021: Reta Mays is sentenced to seven consecutive life terms in prison, one year for each victim, plus twenty years for the eighth victim she tried to kill.

May 17th, 2021: Senator Manchin and VA Secretary Denis McDonough tour the Clarksburg VA Medical Center to learn more about the lapses in procedure and leadership that allowed for the horrific deaths of West Virginia Veterans at the Clarksburg VAMC.

June 11th, 2021: Senator Manchin introduces the e bipartisan VA Provider Accountability Act to address the 2019 GAO Report which found the VA must take action to ensure its healthcare providers have the appropriate qualifications and clinical abilities to deliver safe, high quality care to Veterans.

August 4th, 2021: Senator Manchin secured language in the Senate Appropriations Committee's Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs bill that orders a review of third-party accreditation providers, like The Joint Commission, to address the systemic failures in patient safety reporting at VAMCs, like Clarksburg.

Ongoing: Senator Manchin's office has been working with potential victims' families, taking their information and getting authorization forms and then sharing that with VA OIG so they can properly communicate with these families.