



THE PLAIN DEALER

Outpatient programs show some success; money remains tight Halton case brings renewed attention to mandatory treatment

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Plain Dealer Reporter

In between ushering ball games at Jacobs Field, George Staursky has a part-time career as the guy they bring out to speak about mental illness.

The former suburban councilman is articulate, has boundless energy and doesn't mind sharing with strangers that he was once strapped to a hospital psychiatric bed, or that he attempted suicide four times.

The 50-year-old Staursky has an idea of the paranoid delusions that stalked Timothy Halton Jr., a mentally ill man accused of fatally shooting a Cleveland Heights policeman in May. Several years ago, Staursky's untreated bipolar disorder spun delusions that police officers he knew as a Brunswick councilman -- guys he used to have beers with -- were out to kill him.

Staursky told this story to a classroom of Cleveland police officers on a recent morning.

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