

## **STAUNTON AREA LHRC**

Approved Minutes

January 4th, 2023

10:30 AM

Western State Hospital 103 Valley Center Drive, Stanton, VA 24401

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Eva Wilson – Chairperson

David Paulk– Member

Kim Nine- Member

### **Members Absent**

Doug Cochran – Vice Chairperson

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Riley Curran - Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS OHR

Mykala Sauls – Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS OHR

Brandon Charles, MSW – Facility Advocate Manager, DBHDS OHR

Jonathan Anderson, PhD – Director, Western State Hospital

Gail Burford – Director’s Liaison, Western State Hospital

Anna Lacey – Psychologist, Western State Hospital

Ethan Fragal- Rehabilitation Staff, Western State Hospital

Jim Plummer, RN- Nurse Manager, Western State Hospital

Tim Hartless, Lt – Public Safety, Western State Hospital

Nodeane Robotham, RN – Director of Nursing, Western State Hospital

Jason Stout, PhD – Director of Psychology, Western State Hospital

Glenda Shaffer - Quality Manager, Western State Hospital

Catherine Leslie, PhD – Medical Director, Western State Hospital

Tim Jana, PhD- Psychiatrist, Western State Hospital

Sheldon Ekirch – dLCV

Nicole Durose – dLCV

Becka Herbig – dLCV

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Eva Wilson at 10:40 AM.

### **ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE**

Those in attendance made introductions.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was motioned to be approved by David Paulk seconded by Kim Nine and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were motioned to be approved by Eva Wilson seconded by David Paulk and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Four patients from Western State Hospital provided public comment against the proposed variance stating it would be a violation of their privacy and against their human rights. Nicole Durose with the disability Law Center of Virginia also provided comment against the variance. Western State Hospital declined to make a public comment.

## **ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING**

Riley Curran provided the advocate report to include facility data regarding quarterly ANE and Complaint Statistics, summary of current variances, local updates, and upcoming events. Please see attached.

## **New Business (Open Session)**

None

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion made by David Paulk and seconded by Kim Nine the committee entered closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, a.15 and §2.2-37.05.5 for the purpose of discussion of treatment plans.

## **NEW BUSINESS (Closed Session)**

1. WSH Variance Request – 10:55 AM  
The variance was motioned to be approved after returning to open session by David Paulk seconded by Kim Nine and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.
2. WSH Restriction Review – 11:15 AM  
The review of the restriction was motioned to be approved after returning to open session by David Paulk seconded by Kim Nine and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon reconvening in open session, each member certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, were considered in the closed session.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting was adjourned by Eva Wilson at 11:34 AM. The next meeting date is 04/05/23 at 10:30 AM located at Western State Hospital.

## Advocate Report, Facilities, 4th Quarter

### Quarterly ANE and complaint statistics

For the quarter ending 9/30/2022:

- There were 147 total complaints involving allegations of abuse/neglect/exploitation and 26 of these cases were substantiated.
- There were 253 human rights complaints and 26 of these cases were substantiated.

Summary of current Variances for Facilities

- Central State Hospital has 4 variances all of which were approved by the SHRC on 11/3/2022 to continue for another 3 years. There are no new variances pending.
- Western State Hospital has 2 variances which expire in 2024. There are no variances currently pending.
- Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents had 1 variance which was set to expire in 2023; however, the individual was discharged this past May. There are no variances currently pending.
- Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation has 2 variances which will expire in 2024. There are no variances currently pending.

### DBHDS Updates

**Behavioral Health Commission** – The Behavioral Health Commission met in October. DBHDS Deputy Commissioner for Facility Services Angela Harvell provided an update on the current state of Virginia's state hospitals. The Commissioner was asked to present a preview of the findings and recommendations of the HHR Secretary's Workgroup on Alternative Custody Arrangements. The report on the Secretary's workgroup is expected to be released soon. It will contain important recommendations on how we can improve the experiences for people currently waiting (an average of over 43 hours!) for a temporary detention bed, and on ways to relieve the strain on law enforcement, who has custody during those long wait periods. The report will also detail ways Virginia can increase its bed availability. These presentations are on the BH Commission website.

**Virginia Network of Private Providers (VNPP)** – In October, the Commissioner presented at the VNPP Fall Conference along with DMAS Director Cheryl Roberts. Many other DBHDS staff were invited to share their expertise as well. It was a pleasure spending time with this group and learning how we can better support their critical efforts across Virginia.

**Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI)** – The Commissioner wanted to share a great report from NVMHI: On Saturday, October 8, NAMI held their annual "NAMI Walks Your Way" event in Northern Virginia. A group from NVMHI gathered in the morning (accompanied by family and friends) to build community awareness and raise funds for NAMI's amazing programs. The NVMHI team stuck together throughout the event and loved the chance to get to know their coworkers better. The NVMHI walkers even encountered colleagues from other mental health agencies in Northern Virginia, a great reminder that even if we work at different places, we are all working toward one common goal!

## **News Articles**

- [Va. faith leaders call for funding crisis centers as alternative to jails](#) By Salvador Rizzo, Washington Post, December 5, 2022
- [Loudoun Supervisors Pitch Regional Mental Health Facility to State Lawmakers](#) By Renss Greene, Loudoun Now, December 2, 2022
- [Better disaster support for people with disabilities sought](#) By Katie King, Virginian Pilot (Washington Post), December 4, 2022
- [Ex-children's hospital doctor charged with sex crimes](#) By Sarah Rankin, AP, December 2, 2022
- [4 sailors at Virginia naval center die by apparent suicide in a month](#) By Ellen Mitchell, The Hill, December 2, 2022
- [Editorial: Promises of mental health reform are frequent. This time has to be different.](#) By The Virginian-Pilot & Daily Press Editorial Board, December 3, 2022

Please ask for a digital copy of this report if you would like to click on the news article links.

## **2022 SHRC Meetings**

The SHRC has finished their meetings for the year. For details regarding meeting information, please reach out to your assigned Advocate. You are always welcome to attend open sessions of the SHRC meeting. A 2023 schedule is coming soon.

## **LHRC Trainings**

We have started conducting quarterly virtual LHRC trainings for our assigned LHRCs. The trainings are recorded so that LHRC members can access the trainings and take competency tests to ensure they reviewed and understood the materials. Your advocate team is happy to provide you with continued training dates during the upcoming year!