

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia

Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 2:30 p.m.
December 3, 2007

Present: Debbie Harris, Ski Washington, Linda Thumma, Committee Members; Susan Frushour, Director's Liaison; and Brenda Coleman and Zachary DeVore, VOPA; Randy Urgo, WSH Advocate; and Mark Seymour, Advocate, CCCA
Absent: Rev. David Reed, Karen Cochran, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate

Debbie Harris, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on December 3, 2007. The agenda was approved with the addition of Alex Gulotta's letter to the Committee concerning an individual on Ward C1/2. A quorum of members was present. Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Randy Urgo presented the Advocate's Report and also distributed copies of the new Regs to the Committee.

Brenda Coleman reported on VOPA and stated she will bring copies of the objectives of VOPA for this year to the January meeting.

Susan Frushour reported on the items specifically requested by Alex Gulotta in his November 1, 2007 letter to the Committee concerning the formal human rights complaint for an individual on Ward C1/2. A response will be forthcoming from the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the independent evaluation for an individual. The Committee will request to see the individual at the next available meeting prior to requesting another evaluation and rendering a final decision. The Committee feels the current outside opinion does not meet requirements of 12 VAC35-115-145.

Drs. Steve Nichols and Marc Hastings reviewed Ward A5 ward rules/program for facilitating recovery for clients. The Committee commended Ward A5 staff for their involvement in PSR activities.

The Informal Complaints report was reviewed. Ms. Frushour gave a follow-up report on an individual who had problems with missing items, stating items were found in the Clothing Room and the individual now has all items. Ms. Frushour commented that the numerous "hit by peer on ward" entries to various B1 individuals on October's report were attributed to a single MR individual on that ward.

Susan Frushour reported on the Barriers to Discharge. Brenda Coleman will check on the lack of followthrough by the CSB for an individual on Ward C5/6 with their social worker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Margaret Bowman
Secretary, LHRC

Debbie Harris
Chair,