

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia

***Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffreys Building, Room 86/87 at 12:30 p.m.
March 24, 2008***

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

Debbie Harris, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on March 24, 2008. The Committee agenda was approved as presented. A quorum of members was present. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed with a motion for approval made by Mr. Washington and seconded. The order of the agenda was changed with Opie Ward Rules being presented first and the hearing petition update done second.

Don Swanson, RN, Lee Ann Bass, Psychologist, and Becky Shaw, LCSW, gave an overview of the Opie program. The Committee recommended updating #3 of the Ward Rules having to do with scheduled smoking/outdoor break periods.

The Committee then went into closed session to discuss dates available for continuance of an individual's petition. It was unanimously decided to move forward with the hearing on April 28th and have the Facility Director send his designee. The meeting will start at 9 a.m.

The Committee decided the next meeting will be held on May 19 at 12:30 p.m. due to the holiday falling on the fourth Monday which is the LHRC's regular meeting day. Any unfinished business from the hearing petition will be heard at that time, followed by regular Committee business.

The psychological evaluation to determine need for personal consent for an individual was postponed due to the individual being on pass.

Randy Urgo presented the Advocate's Report. A member asked about the outcome on the formal request to discharge on Page 2 of his report. Mr. Urgo will report back to the Committee on this. Karen Cochran asked if there is a hospital policy regarding cell phones. Brenda Coleman of VOPA requested copies of hospital policies regarding cell phones.

Brenda Coleman reported VOPA is recruiting for members for several committees. She also reported on the VOPA goals that are on their website and stated this year one issue being looked at is transportation (Logisticare) for medical appointments.

Debbie Harris noted Medicare/Medicaid have come up with a questionnaire for consumers on hospital services. Ms. Harris gave further details concerning questions on the questionnaire.

Ms. Harris also asked members to be thinking about membership for the Committee as Karen Cochran's term will end June 30, leaving three members to serve. Ms. Harris and Mr. Washington were given reappointment forms to fill out as their first three-year term ends June 30.

Michael Bowermaster, Ph.D., and Mary Baxter, RN, presented their ward rules for Ward A6 which is a dual diagnosis ward.

Caroline Bill, M.D., Lane Baggett, Ph.D., Debbie Humphreys, RN, Brenda Earley, and Sandy Harper presented ward rules for Medical Acute Care Services whose patients' problems are medical/behavioral in nature.

Susan Frushour reviewed the Informal Complaints and Extraordinary Barriers to Discharge with the Committee.

The next meeting will be held April 28, 2008, at 9 a.m., Jeffreys Building, Rooms 86/87.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Margaret Bowman
Secretary, LHRC

Debbie Harris
Chair, WSH-LHRC