

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia

***Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes***  
*Jeffreys Building, Rooms 86/87 at 12:30 p.m.*  
***May 19, 2008***

**Present:** Debbie Harris, Karen Cochran, Linda Thumma, Ski Washington, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Susan Frushour/Gail Burford, Director's Liason; Brenda Coleman, VOPA

**Guests:** Alex Gulotta, Legal and Justice Center; Andrew Howlett and Ignacio Cardero, Law Students; Jacinto Ramos, client's brother-in-law; Jack Paul Ramos, client's nephew; Mark Seymour, CCCA Advocate; Jerry Smith, Alejandro Rosa, Sue Cook, Mike Poole, Dr. Stephanie Heidelberg, Dr. Mary Clare Smith, and Dr. Jack Barber, WSH staff

**Absent:** David Reed, Nathan Veldhuis, Legal and Justice Center; Ms. Clara Ramos, LAR for client; and Mr. C.C., client

Debbie Harris, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on May 19, 2008. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Linda Thumma and a second from Ski Washington, the minutes from the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved. The agenda was approved as presented.

The Committee heard the continuance of the petition for hearing presented by Mr. Alex Gulotta and Mr. Nathan Veldhuis on behalf of Mr. C.C., the complainant, with regard to alleged violations of the following sections of **The Rules and Regulations**

*12 VAC 35-115-100 – Restrictions on freedoms of everyday life*

*12 VAC 35-115-110 – Use of seclusion, restraint, and time out.*

*12 VAC 35-115- 50 – Dignity.*

*12VAC 35-115-60 – Services which do not meet sound therapeutic practice*

*12 VAC 35-115-70 – Lack of meaningful opportunity to participate in decision making.*

Closing arguments were then heard from each party. Susan Frushour, on behalf of WSH, presented her closing statement first, followed by Mr. Gulotta.

The hearing was concluded with the following recommendations:

1. That C.C. be transferred to a facility operated by DMHMRSAS that is closer in proximity to the family so that they may be involved with his treatment on a weekly basis.
2. That C.C. be treated by a Spanish speaking psychiatrist and/or psychologist.
3. That Spanish speaking staff be present not only on first shift, but second and third shift at WSH.
4. That a treatment plan be developed that includes increasing increments of time out of the locked containment area while at WSH.
5. That WSH follows all guidelines and laws pertaining to seclusion.
6. That WSH provide documentation of approval for the use of the locked containment area.
7. If the family wishes for C.C. to have dentures they may make such appointment and C.C. will be given a day/over night pass for the family to take him to the appointment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Shante' M. Ball  
Secretary, LHRC

**APPROVED:**

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Debbie Harris  
Chair, WSH-LHRC