

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
**Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes**  
*Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
**July 28, 2008**

**Present:** Rev. David Reed, Debbie Harris, Linda Thumma, Ski Washington, Donna Gum, committee members; Brenda Coleman, Zachary DeVore, VOPA; Jerry Thomas, Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

**Guest:** Hal Meyers, potential candidate for membership

Rev. David Reed, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on July 28, 2008. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Linda Thumma and a second from Ski Washington, the minutes from the June meeting were approved. The agenda was reviewed and approved with one addition; to interview a potential member.

The Election of Committee Secretary was held with a unanimous vote for Linda Thumma to continue with the position.

The committee interviewed Mr. Hal Meyers, a potential candidate for membership. His application was approved by the committee and will be submitted to the SHRC for approval.

Dr. Mike Shutty, Psychologist, Ward C5/6, presented his ward's program description which was accepted by the committee.

The committee reviewed and accepted the C7/8 ward rules presented by Dr. Janice Sultenfuss, Psychologist.

Chuck Collins introduced WSH's new patient advocate, Mr. Jerry Thomas. He will be presenting the Advocate's Report at our upcoming meetings. Mr. Collins also updated the committee on the case status of C.C vs. Western State Hospital.

Brenda Coleman and Zachary DeVore gave the VOPA report. Handouts were passed out on the new objectives and goals that their office is working on. They gave a brief overview of who VOPA is and how they play a role at Western State.

Dr. Lee Ann Bass, Psychologist and Donald Swanson, RNC presented to the committee the changes made to the OPIE ward rules.

An explanation of the informational handouts (IFPC Minutes, Informal Complaints, Extraordinary Barriers to Discharge, and Human Writes Newsletter) enclosed in the meeting packets was given by Chuck Collins. He explained to the committee the significance of having them be reviewed by the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2008. It was also noted that for this year's November and December meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2008.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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**Rev David Reed**  
**Chair, WSH-LHRC**

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**Shante' M. Ball**  
**Secretary, LHRC**