

**Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia**

***Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes  
Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30 p.m.  
August 25, 2008***

- Present:** David Reed, Linda Thumma, Ski Washington, Donna Gum, Committee Members; Brenda Coleman and Zachary Devore, VOPA; Jerry Thomas, Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Gail Burford, Director's Liaison
- Guests:** Dr. Paul Hundley, Dr. Mary C. Smith, and Hal Meyers, candidate for membership
- Absent:** Debbie Harris, committee member

David Reed, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on August 25, 2008. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Linda Thumma and a second from Ski Washington, the minutes from the July meeting were approved. The agenda was reviewed and approved with one addition.

Gail Burford reported updates on the questions asked at the last meeting and informed the committee of the use of video cameras in the common areas of ward C1/2.

Chuck Collins reported an update on the matter of **C.C. vs. WSH**. The State Human Rights Committee asked the LHRC to provide additional information before ruling on the findings in number's 7 and 8 of the original LHRC opinion on May 25, 2008. Therefore, a special meeting was held on August 11, 2008 with the same four members (Debbie Harris, Chair, Karen Cochran, Linda Thumma, and Ski Washington) who deliberated in the first opinion. The committee established a quorum at 11:30 a.m. and then went into executive session. The committee submitted the amended decisions to the SHRC for their review at their next meeting on September 5, 2008.

Mr. Collins gave the LHRC a further summation from the special August 1, 2008 SHRC Meeting in Charlottesville, VA. A copy of the data requested by and submitted to the SHRC for its next meeting on September 5, 2008 was provided to the committee by WSH.

Jerry Thomas presented the Advocate's Report and discussed his goals for being patient advocate and what he will be doing to reach patients.

The committee heard the description and character of the 5 treatment malls located at Western State from Dr. Paul Hundley. Dr. Hundley next gave an overview of the Forensic Program and details on the Internal Forensic Privilege Committee.

Brenda Coleman reported on VOPA making changes to their objectives and her hope to have them posted online by October 1, 2008.

Gail Burford answered questions from the committee on the Barriers to Discharge List as well as the Informal Complaints report.

Dr. Mary Clare Smith, WSH Medical Director, shared information with the committee on the Medical Services that take place throughout the hospital.

**Upon a motion made by Donna Gum and seconded by Linda Thumma the Local Human Rights Committee convened in Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code, 2.2-3711(15), for the purpose of discussion or consideration of medical and mental records excluded from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, namely capacity and Authorized Representation for client S.C.**

Upon reconvening in public session, each member certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Closed Session were discussed in the Closed Session.

The next meeting will be held September 22, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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Shante' M. Ball  
Secretary, LHRC

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David Reed  
Chair, LHRC