

**Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia**

***Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30 p.m.
September 22, 2008***

- Present:** David Reed, Linda Thumma, Ski Washington, Donna Gum, Hal Meyers Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Mark Seymore, CCCA Advocate; Gail Burford, Director's Liaison
- Guests:** Dr. Steve Johnson; Dr. Timothy Jana; John Beghtol; Pati Michael; Alex Gulotta (via telephone)
- Absent:** Debbie Harris, committee member; Brenda Coleman and Zachary DeVore, VOPA

David Reed, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on September 22, 2008. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Donna Gum and a second from Linda Thumma, the minutes from the August meeting were approved. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Upon a motion made by Donna Gum and seconded by Ski Washington 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 for the scheduled 3 month treatment plan review of Mr. C.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 committee recommended that walks for Mr. C.C. be attempted and conducted as able. They would like a report at the next meeting in October on the status of these walks.

Chuck Collins reviewed the Commissioner's Response to the SHRC Recommendations in the matter of ***C.C. vs. Western State Hospital*** with the committee.

Mr. Collins announced that he would like to conduct a Human Rights Training Session for the committee especially targeting new members and staff. He asked all members to begin thinking of needed content and perspective dates.

John Beghtol, Director of Community Services, presented an outline of the admission and discharge pressures that affect the hospital and the possible repercussions of pending statewide budget cuts. He described the WSH catchment area, the increase in forensic admissions and the recent loss of private psychiatric beds in area hospitals.

Pati Michael, Volunteer Services, gave the committee an overview of who our volunteers are, the help we receive from the community, and described how they help throughout the hospital. Ms. Michael also noted the services at the hospital that help patients in their everyday living to include a Clothes R Us where patients may go and shop for clothes. She talked about the huge donations that are received from the community and about the items that are sent out with discharged patients to help get them started on their own.

Jerry Thomas reviewed the Advocate's Report with the committee.

The IFC Minutes, Informal Complaints, and Extraordinary Barriers to Discharge List were all reviewed by the committee with no questions.

The next meeting will be held October 27, 2008 @ 2:30.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Shante' M. Ball
Secretary, LHRC

David Reed
Chair, LHRC