

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia

***Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes  
Jeffrey's Building Room 95 at 12:30 p.m.  
January 26, 2009***

**Present:** David Reed, Linda Thumma, Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Patient Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA; Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

**Absent:** Debbie Harris, Committee Member

David Reed, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on January 26, 2009. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Linda Thumma, the December minutes were approved. The agenda was reviewed and approved unanimously.

Chuck Collins gave an update on information from the SHRC Meeting held on January 23, 2009. He reported on data submitted by WSH to the SHRC in relation to the current variance on Mr. C.C. Additionally, he discussed a presentation by Mr. Russell Payne regarding patients who have been on the Extraordinary Barriers Discharge List for more than one year throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Collins commended Western State Hospital who only had 2 patients listed.

Jerry Thomas reviewed the advocate's report of activities from Dec 1 to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. He discussed self advocacy and recovery in addition to a new policy with regards to patients and cell phones he is working on. Mr. Thomas will be doing a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training session at the next LHRC meeting. Facility tour dates for new LHRC members were discussed and will begin after next month's meeting.

Zachary Devore presented information from VOPA. He noted that there will be one representative present at future meetings instead of two. Mr. Devore also discussed Mental Health bills that are in currently in process through the General Assembly.

Complaints, Barriers to Discharge List, and the IFPC Minutes were reviewed by the committee.

Gail Burford provided the committee with an update of the internet availability on patients' computers. She also mentioned details about the new guard house being positioned at the front entrance to the hospital.

With no further business to discuss, and a motion from Linda Thumma and a second from Donna Gum, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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David Reed, Chair

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Shante' M. Ball, LHRC Secretary