

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia

*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
*July 27, 2009*

**Present:** Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, and Debbie Harris, Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Patient Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA, Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

**Absent:** Donna Gum, Chair

**Guests:** Psychologist Lane Baggett, MACS Unit  
Psychologist Lee Ann Bass and Donald Swanson, RNC, Opie Unit

Hal Meyers, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on July 27, 2009. A quorum of members was present. With a motion by Ski Washington and a second by Debbie Harris, the June minutes were approved. The agenda was approved with one addition and one cancellation.

The committee read a request submitted by A5 to make an addition to the ward rules that were previously approved by the committee. The ward asked to add the word "decaffeinated" under the policy "Coffee/tea Use". With a motion from Debbie Harris, and a second from Ski Washington, the change was approved as submitted.

Dr. Lane Baggett, psychologist from the MACS unit presented the ward rules. She was complimented on how well organized the rules were, showing the changes made from the last review. The rules were unanimously approved as presented.

Jerry Thomas read and discussed the Advocate's report on Human Rights Activities for the month of June.

The Opie ward rules were presented by Psychologist Lee Ann Bass and Don Swanson, RNC. With a motion from Debbie Harris, and a second from Ski Washington, the rules were approved as presented.

Gail Burford gave a brief update on the July 10<sup>th</sup> SHRC Meeting.

The VOPA report was given by Zachary DeVore. He mentioned that the new goals and objectives would be available in October of this year.

The Patient Complaints List, Barriers to Discharge List, and the IFPC minutes were all reviewed with no questions. It was reported that after the next meeting, Jerry Thomas will take all interested committee members on a tour of the Opie Medical Building housing the MACS and Opie units.

An announcement was also made by member Debbie Harris, as she will be resigning from the committee effective September 1. Chuck Collins suggested that all interested candidates for membership should be invited at the next meeting with possible interviews to follow.

Gail Burford made an announcement that a representative from the Citizens Council at the hospital would like to attend the meetings every month. The committee welcomes them and is glad of their interest in participating.

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Mr. Jerry Thomas distributed an informative packet on the ERC chair. Questions were asked by Hal Meyers, and answers will be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with a motion from Debbie Harris and a second from Ski Washington.

**APPROVED:**

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**Donna Gum, Chair**

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