

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia

*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
*November 23, 2009*

**Present:** Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, Stephanie Sault, Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Patient Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, CCCA Advocate; Erin Haw and Zachary DeVore, VOPA, Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

**Absent:** Robert Wade and Mahlon Webb, Committee Members

**Guests:** Dr. Laura Tate-Santiago, C7/8 and Dr. Catherine Leslie, C5/6

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on November 23, 2009. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Ski Washington, the minutes from the October meeting were approved as written. The agenda was approved as presented on a motion from Ski Washington and a second from Stephanie Sault.

Jerry Thomas discussed the role of the LHRC in ECT (Electroconvulsive Therapy) Reviews. Drs. Santiago and Leslie explained the clinical indications for use of ECT and answered committee members' questions.

**Upon a motion made by Hal Meyers, the committee went into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 A.15 and section 2.2-3705.5 for the discussion of medical and mental records excluded from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to solely review the required documentation for ECT treatments on three patients.**

**Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each ones' 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 closed session.**

With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Stephanie Sault, the ECT documentation presented by Dr. Santiago on A.N. was noted as complete.

With a motion from Ski Washington and a second from Stephanie Sault, the ECT documentation presented by Dr. Leslie on P.S. was noted as complete.

With a motion from Stephanie Sault and a second from Hal Meyers, the ECT documentation completed by South Western Virginia Mental Hospital on H.H. (admitted to WSH on November 24, 2009) was noted as complete. The committee will write a memo letter in acceptance of the SWVMHI form.

Jerry Thomas presented the Advocate's Report for Human Rights Activities in October.

A motion was made by Hal Meyers and seconded by Ski Washington to commend Jerry Thomas on the fine job he has done with the monthly Advocate's Reports. A motion was also made and passed commending Chuck Collins for the technical advice and patience he has provided to the committee.

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Also, Chuck Collins explained changes in advocacy coverage subsequent to Jerry Thomas' retirement. He and Mark Seymour (CCCA advocate) will share the patient advocate responsibilities for Western State.

Zachary DeVore gave a brief report for VOPA.

The patient complaint's list, barriers list for discharge, and the IFPC Meeting minutes were all reviewed by the committee with no questions to follow.

Donna Gum made announcements for mental health in the community.

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2010.

With no further business to discuss and from a motion made by Stephanie Sault and a second by Hal Meyers, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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**Donna Gum, Chair**

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