

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30
March 22, 2010

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, Mahlon Webb, Stephanie Sault, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, CCCA Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA, Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

Absent: Robert Wade, Committee Member

Guests: D.A., T.P., M.J., J.S.; members from WSH Citizen's Council
Mary Baxter, RN: Ward A6
Dr. Jack Barber
Cheryl Wasserman, RN

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on March 22, 2010. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Ski Washington, the minutes from the February meeting were approved as written. The agenda was approved on a motion from Hal Meyers and seconded by Stephanie Sault.

During the public comment period members from the WSH Citizen's Council expressed concerns they would like the committee to review.

Issue-1: Stribling Building: There was a request to clarify and communicate the building rules.

With a motion from Hal Meyers and seconded by Stephanie Sault, the committee asked to have Dr. Nick Hundley come to next month's meeting to explain what the Stribling rules are, how they are communicated with the patients, how they are enforced, and who is responsible for the enforcement of these rules.

Issue-2: Billing Issues: How is the billing determined on the use of the SSDI/SSI money received for patients?

With a unanimous decision, the committee has requested a representative from the Reimbursement Office for the hospital to come to the next meeting, if possible to give an overview of the billing process.

Issue-3: Phone Calls: Questions about the number of calls allowed and accessibility to pay phones.

The committee noted that phone privileges are addressed in all ward rules as well as Hospital Instruction 4042.

Chuck Collins gave an oral report on the human rights activities for the previous month. He mentioned that there are no cases at this time that will need to be heard before the committee. Mr. Collins discussed the patient complaints reports provided by the Director's office, and gave a brief overview of the different reports his office receives on a daily basis.

Zachary Devore, VOPA Representative responded to the update email on the SB689 bill that was requested last month. Their office continues to watch the impact of the budget cuts, including the issue on medication funding cuts.

Mary Baxter, RN presented the A6 ward rules. She noted that the rules are posted on the unit and are reviewed with the patients there and in groups. With a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Mahlon Webb, the A6 ward rules were approved as submitted.

Updates were given by Gail Burford to the issues the Citizen's Council brought forth last month. The Internal Forensic Panel has approved the change of permitting NGRI patients to carry \$50/day, and \$80 for those exercising 48 hour passes. Additional staff has been provided for transportation of patients to NA/AA meetings Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. With this, patients are able to go to these meetings at least twice a week. Boundary clarification concerns are still being discussed by the Clinical Administrative Team at the hospital. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

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Dr. Barber discussed the \$3.6 million state budget cut and the impact it may have on the hospital. This is on top of the fact that the facility had experienced \$4.1 million in reductions since 2002. He noted that it is no longer possible to absorb additional budget cuts without an impact on some clinical operations across the hospital.

Cheryl Wasserman, RN spoke on the "Recovery Process" for patients at WSH. She went over the WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) and the key concepts of recovery that is used to help the patients.

The lists of Patient Complaints, Barriers to Discharge, and IFPC Minutes were all reviewed with no questions to follow.

Hal Meyers made announcements for mental health activities happening in the community.

The next meeting date is scheduled for April 26, 2010.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Stephanie Sault and seconded by Ski Washington to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Shante' M. Ball, LHRC Secretary