

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
April 24, 2010

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Myers, Ski Washington, Robert Wade, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Erin Haw and Zachary DeVore, VOPA

Absent: Mahlon Webb and Stephanie Sault, Committee Members
Gail Burford, Liaison to WSH Director

Guests: T.P. and J.S: Members of WSH's Citizen's Council
Dr. William Fox, A1
Dr. Christy McFarland, A5
Dr. Nick Hundley, Mall Programs

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on April 24, 2010. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Robert Wade and a second by Ski Washington, the minutes from the March meeting were approved as written. The agenda was approved with one addition by Hal Myers to discuss the construction of the WSH.

The committee opened the meeting to anyone wishing to express concerns during the public comment period.

Chuck Collins made several announcements in addition to the Advocate's Report. Mr. Collins commented on the excellent work of Barbara Nulty and Jody Fravel, Secretary's in the Director's office; in the preparation of the summarized reports of patient complaints. He also announced that the new commissioner for DBHDS is James Stewart, M.D.

Upon a motion made by Hal Myers and second by Ski Washington, 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 initial ECT Treatments presented by Dr. William Fox.

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.

The ECT documentation presented by Dr. William Fox on V.T. was reviewed and deemed complete for treatments.

Dr. Christy McFarland reviewed the A5 ward rules with the committee. She pointed out a change from the previous review to Item 14: Information on Meal Times. A specific explanation was written out for patients on times for their daily meals, and who to contact if they have other scheduled activities during any of the meal times. The committee commented that the rules were well written and approved them as presented.

Dr. Nick Hundley came to discuss the Stribling Mall Rules of Conduct. He described the rules as clear and straightforward for the patients' understanding. He noted that consequences are based on the nature of infractions, for example: bumming, assaults, or smoking. A sign listing the rules of conduct will be posted in the Stribling Building.

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
April 24, 2010

Erin Haw and Zachary DeVore gave a brief VOPA report. They mentioned that the department had a recent server crash and that telephoning them is the best choice to contact them as of this moment. Erin announced that two VOPA investigations are posted online for anyone who is interested.

The committee discussed the preferred procedures to follow for ECT Treatment Reviews that can not be delayed until the next LHRC Meeting. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

The Patient Complaints, Barriers to Discharge Lists, and the IFPC Minutes were reviewed with no questions to follow.

Donna Gum, Chair noted many mental health activities and made announcements of happenings throughout the community. These include the following:

1. May is Mental Health month.
2. MHAA (Mental Health Association of Augusta) will place a bill-board on Route 250 with a theme of "Building Community"
3. There will be an art show at the Staunton Fine Arts Center in conjunction with WSH's art department and VCSB clients in the downstairs gallery with hopes of an opening on May 7th.
4. Donna Gum will be getting the MHAA Proclamation signed by the three governmental bodies.
5. A member of the MHAA board has written an article on her experience at WSH, along with her illness and the coping of her illness.
6. The MHAA Newsletter will be printed out within the next week or two.
7. MHAA joined with the MH (Mental Health) Coalition creating a power point presentation on the Stigma of Mental Illness.
8. The MHAA membership drive is still going on.
9. The MHAA golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 21st.
10. Thursday, April 29 is the Volunteer Services Council Annual Meeting at WSH. The LHRC Members and other contributing organizations will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation for what they do for the hospital.

Hal Meyers gave brief details from a presentation that took place at the last MHAA Board meeting on the construction for the new WSH. He has asked to invite John Beghtol to come before the committee for an overview of the construction plans.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 24th at 12:30.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Shante' M. Ball, Secretary