

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
June 28, 2010

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Myers, Ski Washington, Rob Wade, Mahlon Webb, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, WSH/Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, CCCA/WSH Advocate; Erin Haw, VOPA; Gail Burford and Ellen Harrison, Liaisons to WSH Director

Absent: Stephanie Sault, Committee Member

Guests: A.T. (C7-8 patient)
T.P. (C5-6 patient)
Lane Baggett, Ph.D. (MACS Unit)
Richard Willis, Ph.D. (Opie Unit)
Don Swanson, RNC (Opie Unit)

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on June 28, 2010. With motion from Hal Myers and a second by Rob Wade, the minutes from the May meeting were approved with two minor changes. The agenda was approved with one addition.

Ellen Harrison was introduced to the committee as the new upcoming Liaison to the Director of WSH.

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

Chuck Collins gave a brief Advocate's Report. He encouraged of patient participation at the LHRC Meetings. Hal Myers made a motion that the LHRC draft a memo to WSH wards requesting that arrangements for residents to attend the public comment portion of the LHRC meeting be specifically included in ward rules. Following committee discussion regarding the existing patient complaint process and avenues to the LHRC, Mr. Myers withdrew his motion.

Erin Haw with VOPA announced that the department would begin to develop their Goals and Objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. Anyone who has concerns in general or about a specific case may contact them.

Lane Baggett, Psychologist for the MACS presented the ward rules. There were a few time changes noted. A motion was made and passed by Hal Myers and second by Mahlon Webb to approve the ward rules as presented.

Psychologist Richard Willis, Ph.D. and Don Swanson, RNC presented the Opie ward rules. It was noted that the unit now houses all of the deaf patients admitted to the hospital. A motion was made and passed by Hal Myers and second by Rob Wade to approve the ward rules as presented.

Chuck Collins reviewed the June 21, 2010 Human Rights System Update Memorandum with the committee.

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The 2010-2011 elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary were held. Positions were voted and accepted as the following:

Chair: Donna Gum
V. Chair: Hal Myers
Secretary: Ski Washington

The Patient Complaints List, Barriers to Discharge, and the IFPC Meeting Minutes were all reviewed and discussed with no questions to follow.

Donna Gum announced that MHAA is preparing for their annual meeting coming up in November. A power point presentation on "Removing the Stigma of Mental Illness" (prepared by Doug Cochran) was viewed by the committee.

The next meeting will be held July 26, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Shante' M. Ball, Secretary