

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30*  
*March 28, 2011*

**Present:** Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Mark Schorsch, Rob Wade, Ski Washington, Mahlon Webb, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, WSH/Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, WSH Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA; Ellen Harrison Liaison to WSH Director

**Absent:** Erin Haw, VOPA

**Guests:** R.B. (Patient)  
Mr. Joe Lynch, SHRC

Ms. Gum, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on March 28, 2011. With a motion from Mr. Wade and a second by Mr. Webb, the minutes from the February meeting were approved as written. A quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Washington.

The committee opened the meeting to anyone wishing to express concerns during the public comment period. Patient R.B. discussed a judicial issue that had since been resolved. Patient R.B. also discussed the importance of Mr. Collin's rounds in the Stribling building.

Mr. Collins discussed advocacy efforts including his attendance at Citizens Council where he discusses rights such as patient consent to treatment. Mr. Collins brought two to the attention of the committee his concern around a perceived delay in receiving serious incident report.

Mr. DeVore notified the committee that serious injuries are required to be reported to VOPA within 48 hours and are followed up on within 15 days.

Dr. Stout and Dr. Nichols presented A5 Ward Rules. Dr. Stout reported that A5 revised their Ward Rules in order to offer a friendlier and easier to understand document that contained the principals of recovery. The food and drink policy was the biggest change and this was done in order to follow Hospital Policy. Dr. Stout reported that when making Ward Rule changes the patients are given copies and feedback forms. The committee commended Dr. Stout and Dr. Nichols for answers provided to the committees questions. With a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second from Mr. Webb the A5 ward rules were approved.

Dr. Brasfield discussed psychopharmacology and his role at Western State Hospital. Dr. Brasfield is a doctorate of clinical psychopharmacology and currently holds a contract position with Western State Hospital and VCU. Dr. Brasfield provides psychopharmacology consults to staff at the hospital and with patients when things aren't going as well as they would like with treatment. Discussions with the patient, staff and family are often necessary in order to understand how medication history has evolved for the patient. Although Dr. Brasfield can legally prescribe medication, he chooses not to do so. In addition to consults, Dr. Brasfield also helps with the Medication Education groups at Western State Hospital. He believes the role of medicine is to increase the quality of life for patients. The committee thanked Dr. Brasfield for his invaluable service to patients.

The committee discussed three draft bylaws that were found to be problematic during the last meeting. Mr. Lynch interpreted some of the language used in the bylaws. SHRC does not require that the

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LHRC send an agenda prior to each meeting. Consolidation would only be considered after every option is exhausted. The committee secretary will oversee the person in charge of clerical duties for the committee. Mr. Lynch will gain further clarification from the SHRC. If there are no changes the bylaws may be adopted with the understanding Mr. Lynch presented.

Ms. Gum discussed Cross Mapping Systems and passed around the map that was developed. Participants included a cross section of disciplines. There were five top priorities identified and participants were walked through an emergency that began on the street and traveled through the system. 30 mappings have been done around the Commonwealth of VA, with more scheduled.

The Patient Complaints List, Barriers to Discharge List, and the IFPC minutes were all reviewed with no questions. Mr. Seymour commented that he is working on some of the ongoing complaints which are taken very seriously by staff.

Under Community Connections, Ms. Gum announced a pizza fundraiser for Mental Health of America will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at CiCi's Pizza at 5pm. The Mental Health of America golf tournament will be held in May. Ms. Gum also announced the Consumer Art Show which will take place at the Staunton Public Library.

**Upon a motion made by Mr. Meyers, the committee went into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (1) for the purpose of discussion and consideration of appointments for the WSH Local Human Rights Committee.**

**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.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Wade the WSH LHRC accepted Kathy Belcher as a Member to the LHRC. Ms. Belcher's application will be forwarded to SHRC for final approval.

Agenda requests for future meetings include: April; Mr. Collins will present "Self Advocacy" for the committee.

The next meeting will be held April 25, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss and from a motion made by Mr. Webb and second by Mr. Wade, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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Donna Gum, Chair

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Elizabeth T. Little, LHRC Secretary

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