

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
June 27, 2011

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

Absent: Mark Seymour, WSH Advocate; Zachary DeVore, VOPA

Guests: JS (patient)
Heidi Campbell
Pati Michael, Volunteer Services Director
Jim Stevens, Rehab Services Director
Krista Gattis, Ph.D
Herb Stewart, Ph.D
Dr. William Fox, A1
Dr. Richard Willis, Opie

Ms. Gum, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on June 27, 2011. With a motion from Mr. Wade and a second by Mr. Meyers, the minutes from the May meeting were approved with changes. A quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved with changes on a motion from Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Meyers. The committee formally voted to extend the time frame for the upcoming hearing. The hearing time extension was approved with a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Mr. Wade.

The committee opened the meeting to anyone wishing to express concerns during the public comment period. Mr. Schorsch was congratulated on his recent appointment to the committee. Patient JS would like to be informed in writing a few days prior to the hearing if opened to the public.

Mr. Collins presented Hearing Training to the committee. Training included thorough guidance covering the following procedures: Due Process, The Hearing Process, Gathering Evidence, Issue Rule Analysis Conclusion (IRAC), Decision/Opinion, Hearing, Post Hearing, and Appeal to SHRC.

Mr. Collins reported receipt of 11 complaints that were not on the complaints list.

Ms. Haw reported the Public Input Survey is available through VOPA. Comments will be considered before objectives are developed for the new fiscal year.

Ms. Michael discussed Volunteer Services role at WSH with the committee. Ms. Michaels noted the importance of connecting with patients upon discharge. Volunteer Services maintains the "discharge corner" providing items for patients being discharged such as kitchen and bathroom supplies. University students and other members of the community are recruited as volunteers to work in the PSR malls or on wards. Additional services offered include the Christmas program, the clothing store, and funding for activities/items needed while patients are hospitalized. These services are made possible by community donations and funding through the Volunteer Services Council. The new hospital will provide an opportunity for patients to enjoy easier access to the clothing store, as well as work skills programs.

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The A1 Ward Rules were presented by Dr. Fox, and Psychologists Krista Gattis and Herb Stewart. In order to encourage active involvement in groups, patients are now offered incentives. Incentives include weekly opportunity to obtain items from the vending machine and Wal-Mart. A1 presenters discussed the importance of PSR attendance in the recovery process. A1 Ward Rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Ms. Belcher.

Dr. Willis presented Opie Ward Rules to the committee. Although there have been no significant changes to the Ward Rules, Dr. Willis discussed introduction statements which encourage interaction between members of the deaf and hearing communities. Sign language classes are also offered providing a more safe and consistent environment for patients. Opie is an extended care/acute deaf unit providing individualized programming and specialized programs. Opie Ward Rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Wade.

The Patient Complaints List, Barriers to Discharge List, and the IFPC minutes were all reviewed.

Under Community Connections, Ms. Gum announced that the CSB Legislative Forum is scheduled for August, 28, 2011 at 6:00pm.

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.

Agenda requests for future meetings include: amending July agenda in order to participate in scheduled LHRC Hearing.

The next meeting will be held July 25th at 12:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss and from a motion made by Mr. Meyers and seconded by Ms. Belcher, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Elizabeth T. Little, LHRC Secretary

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