

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30*  
*August 29, 2011*

- Present:** Kathy Belcher, Heidi Campbell, Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Mark Schorsch, Rob Wade, Mahlon Webb Committee Members; Chuck Collins, WSH/Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, WSH Advocate; Ellen Harrison Liaison to WSH Director
- Absent:** Erin Haw, Zachary DeVore, VOPA
- Guests:** AT (patient)  
Judith Curry-El, Ph.D  
Ken Showalter, Ph.D  
Christy Mcfarland, Ph.D  
David Rawls, Ph.D  
Dr. Robert Gardella, B2  
Dr. Jeffrey Bonacci, B2  
Dixie Johnson, C5/6  
Audrey Turner, A2  
Sue Horst, RN  
Mike Shutty, Ph.D  
Lee Ann Bass, Ph.D

Ms. Gum, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on August 29, 2011. With a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Mr. Webb, the minutes from the June meeting were approved. A quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Wade.

The committee opened the meeting to anyone wishing to express concerns during the public comment period. Patient AT asked questions regarding having her legal rights restored through the court. Mr. Seymour assured AT that her treatment team is aware of her request. Mr. Seymour will follow up with AT's treatment team.

Mr. Collins discussed the appeal that has been filed with the SHRC in the SH case. The appeal will be heard by the SHRC at their September 9, 2011 meeting. Mr. Collins also read the letter written by Ms. Haw to the SHRC chair. Mr. Collins reported receipt of 12 complaints that were not on the complaints list.

The A2 Ward Rules were presented by Ken Showalter and Judith Curry-El, Psychologists, Audrey Turner and Sue Horst, RN. A2 houses a primarily forensic population including jail transfers and pre-trial treatment referrals. A2 is a coed ward. Changes made to Ward Rules were reviewed. The committee asked that the hygiene section also include shower and shaving procedures, and that the term "mental retardation" be changed to "intellectual disability". A2 Ward Rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Ms. Belcher.

The B2 Ward Rules were presented by Dr. Gardella, and Sue Horst, RN. Changes to the B2 "Community Policies" include the shopping schedule being changed to the second and fourth Wednesday of the month which aligns with PSR Mall "down days". The committee liked the Recovery Coach section and the emphasis on choices in treatment. The committee asked that the hygiene section also include

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shower and shaving procedures and that there be a clear indication that access to personal items can be granted by any staff member. B2 Ward Rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Mr. Wade.

The C7/8 Ward Rules were presented by Lee Ann Bass, Psychologist. C7/8 is an extended care unit housing a mixed population of both civil and forensic admissions. Changes were made in order to move in a more recovery oriented direction, these changes include the new title "Recovery Guidelines for C7/8 Unit". Other changes include added fresh air breaks, clarification of level system, promotion of outings and access to all phones. It was noted that most of these changes are permissive. C 7/8 Ward Rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Mr. Wade.

The C 5/6 Ward Rules were presented by Mike Shetty, Psychologist. A new page was added per LHRC request which addresses two questions regarding patient rights. Other changes include a time change for "off ward activities", and a new section entitled "Maintaining Safe Living Space" to comply with Fire Marshall and WSH guidelines. C 5/6 Ward rules were approved on a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Mr. Webb.

The Patient Complaints List, Barriers to Discharge List, and the IFPC minutes were all reviewed. It was noted that SH had several complaints on the complaint list.

Under Community Connections, Ms. Gum announced that the CSB Legislative Forum is scheduled tonight August 29, 2011 at Augusta Health. The Mental Health of America Annual Meeting will be held on November 18, 2011. Mr. Collins will be presenting at the September 20, 2011 NAMI "We Care" meeting.

Agenda requests for future meetings include: Invite an Admissions Office representative and a Discharge planner to the September meeting. Invite Dr. Barber to September meeting to share his written response. On a motion by Mr. Meyers the committee approved sending Dr. Barber a letter of commendation on his speedy response in the SH hearing.

The next meeting will be held September 26th at 12:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss and from a motion made by Mr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Webb, 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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