

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Rom 95 at 12:30
April 23, 2012

- Present:** Donna Gum, Committee Chair, Hal Meyers, Heidi Campbell, Mahlon Webb, Kathy Belcher, Mark Schorsch, Committee Members; Chuck Collins, WSH/Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, WSH Advocate; Erin Haw, VOPA; Ellen Harrison Liaison to WSH Director
- Absent:** Rob Wade, Committee Member
- Guests:** Mr. S., Patient; Dr. Jason Stout; Ms. Lisa Drewry; Mr. Jim Stevens

Ms. Gum, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on April 23, 2012. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Mr. Meyers and a second by Ms. Belcher, the minutes from the March meeting were approved with changes including a redaction of a portion of the minutes. The motion was approved by vote. Mr. Meyers also made a motion that a letter be placed in Ms. Sheffer's personnel file to officially commend her work on the minutes from the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and passed by vote. Changes to the agenda were approved to move the Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting and to add Dr. Jason Stout to the agenda immediately following Public Comment.

Ms. Gum opened the meeting to public comment. Mr. S. commented that he had recently moved to Ward A6, and is working to get to know people and settle in.

Dr. Jason Stout came before the committee to request approval of a change to the A5 Ward Rules. The complete ward rules were approved by the LHRC in the March meeting. Since that time, the evening cabinet time has been changed. It was 7:15PM to 8:00PM and is proposed to be 7:45PM to 8:45PM. The reason for the change is to accommodate patients who are returning from programs at Stribling at approximately 7:55PM. Mr. Meyers made a motion to approve the change; Ms. Belcher seconded, and the motion passed by vote.

Old Business: Introduced by Mr. Collins – regarding the presumption of filming patients without their consent by the French film crew who was filming the documentary at WSH in February 2012, does the committee feel that patients' rights were violated by this activity? The Committee was asked to ponder if there was a potential violation of human rights, confidentiality and exploitation. If so, what action should this committee propose to remedy these violations? The committee inquired on several points regarding how patients were approached regarding being filmed or whether they were asked for permission at all; including whether the filming was exploitative in nature. Ms. Harrison related the process that Mr. Beghtol and the film crew utilized in regards to their approach to patients for one-on-one interviews, filming groups and filming distance shots; including hospital instructions and the document signed by any media filming crew around use and restrictions of such images and soundbites. She also indicated that there are some committee concerns that cannot be completely assuaged until the first draft of the film is viewed, at which time, the Ethics Committee will be allowed to edit out any portion of the film that completely or partially represents the image of a patient who has not consented to be in the film. Ms. Belcher made a motion that two committee members be allowed to attend and fully participate in the Ethics Committee review of the film. Mr. Meyers seconded the motion, and it passed by vote. Ms. Campbell then made a motion that Mr. Collins and Mr. Seymour are to be notified when any film media (newspaper and radio purposefully excluded) are going to be on campus, and Mr. Schorsch seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote.

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In the Advocate's Report, Mr. Collins reported that he had received 13 cases that were not on the complaint list. He presented his annual report for Region One to the SHRC. Mr. Collins commented that this committee is one of the best he has worked with and may be one of the best in the state. The information they look at on a monthly basis is much more detailed than most of the others. He doesn't know of any other facility that has the sharing of information that WSH enjoys.

VOPA – Ms. Hawes provided the committee with postage paid VOPA Annual Surveys for distribution.

Regarding the Complaint Report, on Case #61 and 62; information in the resolved column is not really relevant to the resolution. The committee would like to see information more specific to the complaint. Ms. Harrison was asked to contact Ms. Fravel, the report's author, to request more detail in the resolved fields of the report.

Extraordinary Barriers to Discharge Report: The report is much shorter this month, with only 12 on the EBL. There we no other comments.

IFPC Minutes: Most notes are for an increase in privilege level.

Community Connections: Ms. Gum provided a Legislative Update, specifically those budget items related to mental health. A copy is attached. May is Mental Health Month and there are many events taking place.

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 of medical record/treatment plans.

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.

Mr. Jim Stevens presented the Operations Manual for the Webb Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center and the Barber Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center programs. There is a smoke break noted on Page 11 that needs to be removed. "Geisen" Hall is misspelled on Page 11. Beth Cook has replaced Susan Coffman. The manual is not posted for patients; however, patients are given a brochure with much of this information in it. Mr. Schorsch suggested providing a copy of the brochure to patients on Admissions Wards so they have an idea of what to look forward to when they move to a long term ward. Ms. Belcher made a motion to approve the operations manual (ward rules) which was seconded by Mr. Meyers. The motion was approved by vote.

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2012, at 12:30 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Glenda D. Sheffer, LHRC Secretary