

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
*July 27, 2015*

**Present:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair, Karen Cochran, Secretary, Ms. Teri Sumey, committee member; Mark Seymour, Regional Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

**Absent:** Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate

**Guests:** Mr. Bob Tucker, VCSB Emergency Services Manager, Mr. Ski Washington and Mr. John Beghtol, member candidates

Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair, called the Local Human Rights Committee to order on July 27, 2015. Ms. Campbell noted that a quorum of members was present. The minutes from the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Ms. Cochran, a second by Ms. Belcher and a vote of the committee. The agenda was modified to move Mr. Beghtol to 2:30 and add Mr. Washington at 2:45PM for interviews as potential members.

Mr. Bob Tucker, Emergency Services Manager at Valley CSB shared information about the new Therapeutic Docket in Staunton and Augusta County. The development of this project began with a grant from DBHDS of \$80,000. Additional grants have been applied for to further the program. The court is in session every other Tuesday at the General District Court. The program is managed by VCSB and Blue Ridge Court Services and operated by judges and Commonwealth's Attorneys serving on their own time. Judges in general courts of Staunton and Augusta County have the option of recommending misdemeanor offenders for the Therapeutic Docket. There is specific criteria that must be met for an individual to qualify.

Once an individual has been accepted to the program, a treatment plan is developed based on individual needs. Treatment for their mental illness is provided. They may also receive assistance in seeking out community services such as housing and food when needed. Participants are monitored throughout the process by Blue Ridge Court Services. Non-compliance with the program results in one day of jail time. Repeat offenses result in multiple days in jail. When they have attained the established goals and served the specified sentence, the participants graduate the program and their charges are nol prossed.

Jim Stevens, Director of Rehabilitative Services, asked to address the committee regarding patients coming to LHRC meetings. He proposed a method for making the meetings more accessible for the patients. When a patient indicates they want to attend, their wrist strap is programmed to allow them through the appropriate doors; however, they must be accompanied the entire time by a qualified staff person. Patients will not be allowed to stay without their escort. One staff person may accompany multiple patients at the discretion of the Treatment Teams or PSR leadership. The committee agreed with this plan and noted that they are hopeful this will improve patient participation in the meetings.

During the public comment session, Mr. TH, a resident on 1 Pine, requested assistance from the committee regarding his privilege level. He indicated that his level has been lowered in the past due to contraband offenses. On these occasions, his level had been restored after a period of time. In May 2014, his level was dropped and no reason for the change was provided. He has contacted dLCV for assistance with little result. The IFPC controls his privilege level,

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due to his Forensic status, and won't increase his level. He regularly receives passes to the community without supervision, but cannot move freely throughout the hospital. He also indicated that his Treatment Team, Dr. Nichols and Dr. Stout, agree with increasing his privilege level.

The committee recommended that Mr. Seymour contact Dr. Nichols and Dr. Stout for further clarification on this situation. Mr. H may be discharged prior to the next LHRC meeting; however, if he has not, Ms. Sheffer will include time to discuss this on the August meeting agenda.

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Belcher, the committee went into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, a.15 and §2.2-37.05.5 for the purpose of discussion of medical record / treatment plans.**

Dr. Lee Ann Bass presented the treatment plan for Ms. AM for quarterly review. The plan was approved for three months.

**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.**

The committee asked that Ms. Sheffer maintain a synopsis of each for each of the patients on approved restrictive treatment plans for the committee's information with quarterly treatment plan reviews are conducted.

The Recovery Guidelines (Unit Rules) for 1 Hickory were presented by Dr. Lee Ann Bass. She noted that the only change from the previous recovery guidelines is the cabinet time. The patients were asked to comment on this before the change, and indicated they were pleased that this would be changing. Mr. Seymour asked Dr. Bass to add his cellular number for contacting an advocate. Ms. Sumey made a motion to approve the guidelines. Ms. Cochran seconded the motion and the committee approved with a vote.

Ms. Cochran expressed concerns during Community Connections regarding Waynesboro stopping their transitional housing program. It is believed that without this program, patients will spend additional time in the hospital. The reason for the closing is changes in DAP funding regulations that are causing financial difficulties. Also of note, the federal Center for Mental Health Services has not funded the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) program, which includes services for those at risk of becoming homeless.

Officer elections were held. Ms. Belcher nominated Ms. Campbell for Chair, Ms. Sumey nominated Ms. Belcher for Vice Chair, and Ms. Sumey also nominated Ms. Cochran for Secretary. The committee voted on each nomination and all passed. These will be the committee's officer for Fiscal Year 2016.

**Upon a motion made by Mr. Wade, the committee went into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, a.15 and §2.2-37.05.5 for the purpose of discussion of medical record / treatment plans.**

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Dr. Jason Stout and Dr. Ken Brasfield were present to discuss concerns raised previously by Mr. JR. Based on the information provided, the committee agreed with the decisions of the treatment team regarding Mr. R's treatment plan.

Dr. Jason Stout presented the treatment plan for Mr. DC for quarterly review. He indicated this plan is no longer necessary, and the committee approved removing this piece of Mr. C's treatment plan.

Dr. Jason Stout presented the treatment plan for Ms. CZ for quarterly review. The committee approved the plan for three months.

**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. John Beghtol was interviewed as a potential committee member. Mr. Beghtol would serve the committee in the role of Healthcare Professional. When asked about his recent retirement from Western State Hospital, Mr. Beghtol indicated he did not feel there would be a conflict of interest with his work on the LHRC. Mr. Beghtol was asked why he wanted to participate in this committee. He responded that he feels he is still healthy and wants to stay active, is interested in Human Rights advocacy, and would like the LHRC to help patients who have been admitted to WSH inappropriately. The committee recommended that Mr. Beghtol be accepted to the committee. The review forms completed by the committee members were given to Mr. Seymour for submission the State Human Rights Committee.

The committee interviewed Mr. Ski Washington for possible membership on the LHRC. Mr. Washington was on the committee from 2005 until 2011. He works at Valley CSB currently; however, his work hours do not conflict with LHRC meeting times. He will serve as a Consumer member. Mr. Washington was asked why he wanted to return to the committee. He indicated that he was informed of the opening on the committee and wanted to help, it fits into his schedule, the LHRC does a lot of positive things for people and he wants to be a part of that. The committee recommended Mr. Washington for membership. Mr. Seymour will present this recommendation, along with the review forms, to the State Human Rights Committee.

In the advocate's report, Mr. Seymour indicated that a new edition of the current Human Rights section of the Code of Virginia is available. A draft of the pending Code revision has been sent to Governor McAuliffe for his approval. Once the governor's approval is received, the draft will be made available for public comment.

The June Patient Complaints Report was reviewed. It was noted that there appears to be more aggression lately. Regarding complaint #563, there was concern about a patient having access online pornography via a state owned computer. It was explained that these computers have filters to prevent access to inappropriate websites; however, these things may be accessible through social media, such as Facebook.

While reviewing the Extraordinary Barriers List, it was noted that Horizon Behavioral Health appears to be making strides in moving patients out of the hospital. Patient #233153 is

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waiting to move to CVTC (Central Virginia Training Center); however, the process to accomplish is complicated and lengthy.

An emergency meeting of the LHRC was conducted on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a member who has missed regular scheduled meetings for more than a year. This group recommended that Mr. MS be removed from the committee based on the current bylaws, which state that a member may be removed after missing 3 consecutive scheduled meetings. The State Human Rights Committee approved the recommendation, and Mr. S was notified.

There was also concern regarding Mr. S's current status as a patient at WSH. While the current bylaws do not prohibit a patient from being on the committee, it was decided that, due to confidentiality issues, this would not be appropriate. At this meeting, the committee voted to update the bylaws to prohibit current WSH patients from serving on the LHRC.

The next meeting will be held August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. in Room A1085 of the Staff Development Offices.

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

**APPROVED:**

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Heidi Campbell  
Chair

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Glenda D. Sheffer  
WSH Administrative Support