

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30
August 24, 2015

Present: Karen Cochran, Secretary, Ms. Teri Sumey, committee member; Mark Seymour, Regional Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

Absent: Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair, Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate

Guests: Ms. Cheryl Talley, member candidate

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on July 27, 2015. A quorum of members was not present; however, those in attendance served as a subcommittee.

During the public comment session, Mr. RS, a resident on 1 Pine, requested assistance from the committee regarding his efforts to obtain documentation relating to his arrest and subsequent transport to WSH. He was arrested by the Staunton Police Department for non-compliance in taking prescribed medications. He was assessed at Augusta Hospital following his arrest and was transported to WSH by Augusta County Sheriff's Department. He is attempting to obtain a copy of the arrest order from the Magistrate, the arrest report from Staunton PD and the transportation report from Augusta County Sheriff's Department. He has been told that his treatment team needs to request these documents, but his requests for assistance from the treatment team have been non-productive.

Mr. S also expressed concerns regarding his privilege level. He would like to be able to leave the hospital to go to Walmart to purchase snacks, coffee and writing supplies and to go to Augusta County Public Library to make copies of letters and other documents.

Mr. Seymour will speak with Ms. Wanda Saner, social worker on 1 Pine, to ask her to assist Mr. S with his requests and concerns.

Unit Rules for 2 Elm were presented by Dr. Christy McFarland, Dr. Bob Gardella, Dr. Jeff Bonacci, Dr. Dave Rawls, Mr. Bob Argiro, Ms. Stacey Hayes, Ms. Donna Nulty and Mr. Alejandro Rosa. The team made only a few minor changes to the unit rules this year. Changes that were made were mostly clarifications, some improved verbiage and the adjustment of meal and shower times. The team was asked why a doctor's order is needed for a patient to shave their head. Dr. Gardella commented that they want to determine whether the patient has made a healthy decision regarding head shaving. They were also asked to clarify the term "staffed" regarding a patient's arrival on the unit. In this instance, a patient is "staffed" when they have completed their initial meeting with the treatment team. Dr. McFarland indicated she would clarify this in the rules. The subcommittee indicated they would recommend that the full committee approve the 2 Elm Unit Rules at the next meeting.

Ms. Cheryl Talley attended the meeting as a potential new committee member. Mr. Seymour explained the role of the committee and the role of a committee member. Ms. Talley indicated she is retired and has no professional conflict of interest with serving on this committee, and that attending monthly meetings would not be a problem. She is interested in serving on the LHRC as a continuation of her work in mental health services. The committee

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recommended Ms. Talley for consideration by the SHRC. Mr. Seymour will present this recommendation to the SHRC at their next meeting.

The committee entered 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. Eugene Simopoulos and Ms. Terry Leonard, Social Worker, presented the treatment plan for Ms. MB for the committee's consideration. The subcommittee will recommend to the full committee that the plan be approved for three months.

The treatment plan for Mr. BP was presented for quarterly review by Dr. Mike Shutter. Dr. Shutter recommended some changes to the plan. The subcommittee will recommend to the full committee that the plan be approved for three more 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.

Dr. Tim Jana, Dr. Jeff Phillips and Dr. Anna Lacey presented the 1 Elm Unit Rules. The changes this year were minimal, mostly involving time changes, restricted items, snacks and not allowing television to be used between midnight and morning. The subcommittee will recommend to the full committee that they approve the 1 Elm Unit Rules.

The committee entered 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. Tim Jana, Dr. Jeff Phillips and Dr. Anna Lacey presented the treatment plan for Mr. TS for quarterly review. The subcommittee will recommend to the full committee that the plan be approved for three additional months.

Dr. Jason Stout responded to concerns raised in the July meeting by Mr. TH. Mr. H's concerns were regarding privilege levels set forth by the FRP (Forensic Review Panel) in Richmond. Dr. Stout indicated that Mr. H has been scheduled for discharge and that privilege levels are no longer a concern for Mr. H.

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.

In the advocate's report, Mr. Seymour discussed the number of ID (intellectually disabled) patients being admitted to WSH. This trend is likely to continue as the remaining Training Centers continue the process of closing. Mr. Seymour also commented on the CHRIS (Computerized Human Rights Information System) process. When providers enter incidents into the system, the incident is assigned to an advocate. The number of incidents being entered is much greater than the advocates can address. Currently, approximately 4,000 cases are waiting

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to be closed and advocates have been given direction regarding how to address the back-logged cases.

The July Patient Complaints Report was reviewed. It was noted that there appear to be more psychotic patients making formal complaints than in the past. Patient JR made a complaint regarding the treatment team declining his request to take dietary supplements. Mr. JR has met with the LHRC on this issue; the committee met with the treatment team and determined that the team's decisions were reasonable. A question was raised regarding whether the supplements could be kept in the patient's snack bin. This would not be an acceptable method of providing dietary supplements to a patient.

While reviewing the Extraordinary Barriers List, it was noted that there seem to be more patients on the list this month; however, many are awaiting available slots in the programs for which they have already been approved.

The next meeting will be held October 5th, 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:

Heidi Campbell
Chair

Glenda D. Sheffer
WSH Administrative Support