

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Staff Development Offices, Room A1085 at 12:30
December 7, 2015

Present: Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Karen Cochran, Secretary, John Beghtol, Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members; Mark Seymour, Regional Advocate; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

Absent: Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; Ski Washington, committee member

Guests:

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on December 7, 2015 by Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair. A quorum of members was present. The minutes from the October 26th meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion by Ms. Cochran, second by Ms. Talley, and a vote of the committee. Changes were made to the agenda: The treatment plan review for Mr. TS was removed. The change was approved with a motion by Ms. Talley and a second by Ms. Cochran, followed by a committee vote.

There were no patients in attendance for the Public Comment time. Ms Haw advised the committee that there are new resources available on the dLCV website. An investigative report was recently published regarding a patient death at WSH in 2013. Ms. Haw provided copies to the committee members. Ms. Campbell expressed concerns that the LHRC was not advised of the death when it occurred. The committee discussed the use of seclusion and restraint to maintain a safe environment in the hospital. Ms. Sheffer provided a brief description of steps being taken by WSH to reduce the use of seclusion and restraint, such as the Seclusion/Restraint Reduction Committee and the Trauma Informed Care Committee. She will provide further information on these committees and on SAMHSA guidelines to the committee members via email or postal mail as appropriate.

Proposed changes to the WSH LHRC Bylaws were reviewed. The committee recommended using the term “patient” throughout the document. The bylaws were approved with changes by a motion from Ms. Sumey, a second by Mr. Beghtol and a vote of the committee. Ms. Sheffer will provide copies of the final bylaws to the committee at the January meeting.

For the Advocate’s Report, Mr. Seymour commented on his resignation from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. At this time, Mr. Seymour is not aware of how the Office of Human Rights will manage his duties until a replacement is appointed. The draft of new Human Rights Regulations is currently available on the DBHDS website.

The committee reviewed and agreed with the meeting schedule for 2016. Ms. Sheffer will forward the schedule to the appropriate staff for them to be posted on the units and malls.

The October Patient Complaints Report was reviewed. Ms. Cochran questioned whether the hospital utilizes a customer satisfaction survey. Ms. Sheffer indicated that this has been done in the past, but not for some time; however, a new patient satisfaction survey is being developed and will be utilized when it is complete. The note under the resolution of complaint #652 prompted the question of whether MB is taken advantage of or MB takes advantage of other

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patients. It was noted that MB takes advantage of others. Ms. Campbell pointed out a statement in complaint #656 regarding the actions of a social worker. The patient, MM, indicated that the social worker “tears down my plans and she thinks my plans are a joke.” She asked if changing to a different social worker is an option. Social workers are assigned to a unit and are considered part of that Treatment Team. In order to have a new social worker, MM would need to move to a new unit and Treatment Team.

Several things were noted regarding the Extraordinary Barriers List. The list continues to include a large number of patients; however, most of those listed have been on the list for a short time and some are set to be discharged within the next month.

Regarding Community Connections, Ms. Campbell noted that the Mental Health America (MHA) annual dinner and awards ceremony went very well. The keynote speaker was Mr. Paul Gionfriddo, President and CEO of MHA. Mr. Geonfriddo is working to bring new ideas to mental health treatment. Ms. Haw indicated that dLCV has resources available for education of children with special learning needs or have a mental illness. Mr. Beghtol commented on a current project that NAMI has begun. They are lobbying for a Crisis Stabilization and Detox Center in this area. In order to accomplish this goal, they need partners and community leaders to provide support, promote the project and who are willing to stay with the project until the goal is met.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Belcher, 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. Mike Shutty presented treatment plans for Mr. BP and Ms. MB. The committee approved both plans and requested that quarterly reviews be continued.

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 next meeting will be held January 25, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Room B1031 of the Webb Learning Center. Committee members will gather in the lobby to be escorted to the meeting room.

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

APPROVED:

Heidi Campbell
Chair

Glenda D. Sheffer
WSH Administrative Support