

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:30AM*  
*June 27, 2016*

**Present:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; Karen Cochran, Secretary; John Beghtol, Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate; Artea Ambrose, OHR Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

**Absent:** Ski Washington, committee member

**Guests:** Ms. AM and Ms. AT, patients; Dr. Carol McLain and Dr. Mary Kate Law from unit 2 Hickory; Dr. Mike Shuttery from unit 1 Oak; Dr. Jeff Phillips, Director of Psychology

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on June 27, 2016, by Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair. A quorum of members was present. The minutes from the April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> were reviewed. Ms. Belcher made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Cochran seconded the motion and the committee accepted the minutes by vote. The agenda was approved as written.

During the Public Comment time, Ms. AM, a patient from unit 1 Pine, advised the LHRC that she has not had any self-injurious behavior for 142 days and that she continues to go beyond her doctors' recommendations. She requested the committee's assistance regarding letters she has written to Dr. Smith, Hospital Director, to which she has not received a reply. She has met with her treatment team and requested that her treatment plan be revised. She also advised that issues regarding her fiancé have not been addressed. She feels that the treatment team is retaliating against her by controlling who she sees when she is on passes. She is continuing to pursue a hearing with the LHRC regarding her request for discharge and a violation of her privacy.

Ms. AT, a patient from unit 1 Oak, indicated that she was concerned that after being found sitting on the floor in the hallway, she was told she may not receive her good behavior award for the week. The treatment team is considering this issue and has not made a final decision at this time. She stated she sat down on the floor because she felt dizzy and feels she is being penalized for "no good reason." She also expressed her desire to be discharged.

Dr. Carol McLain and Dr. Mary Kate Law presented the Unit Rules for 2 Hickory. There were minimal changes made to the unit rules this year. They are listed in a memorandum to the committee. It was suggested that the document's pagination be corrected. The committee requested more information regarding a statement indicating that visits with children should be arranged with the treatment team "well in advance of the visit." Dr. McLain indicated the statement is intentionally subjective. A specific timeframe is not noted to allow for various situations and needs. The 2 Hickory unit rules were accepted with a motion from Ms. Belcher and a second from Ms. Talley. The subcommittee voted to accept the 2 Hickory unit rules.

**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 Shuttery presented the quarterly treatment plan review for Ms. MB. The committee voted to accept the treatment plan for another quarter with a motion from Ms. Talley and a second by Ms. Sumey.

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Dr. Mike Shutty also presented the quarterly treatment plan review for Mr. BP. Ms. Cochran made a motion to accept the plan for another quarter. Ms. Talley seconded the motion. The committee voted to accept the treatment plan for another quarter.

**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 Advocate's Report was provided by Ms. Artea Ambrose. The Office of Human Rights has designated a new Patient Advocate for Western State Hospital and the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. Mr. Maynard Ritchie will be joining us at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Ambrose will accompany him to that meeting. Ms. Ambrose indicated the waiver redesign has been delayed until August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Regarding Community Connections, NAMI plans to complete a concept paper for the establishment of Crisis Stabilization, Detox, and Diversion facilities in this area by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The concept paper was requested by Senator Emmett Hanger, who will present a full proposal to the General Assembly in September.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Virginia Chapter will conduct the annual Out of the Darkness Walk on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton. NAMI will participate in the walk. David Paul raised \$1,800 for NAMI by walking the Appalachian Trail.

Houses on Johnson Street in Staunton are being added to housing provided for people who are reestablishing themselves following a period of homelessness as well as those on the verge of becoming homeless. VASI is raising funds to assist individuals with medications and housing items, such as furniture. Their goal is \$3,000. They are also in the process of establishing a dental fund.

Ms. Sumey will be attending the MHA National Conference. Training is being developed for the community to provide 6 weeks of Medication Management and 6 weeks of Crisis Intervention. Future classes may be scheduled.

The committee discussed officer elections. It was determined that officers may serve in their current role for a second one-year term. Ms. Sumey made a motion to continue with Ms. Campbell as the Chairperson, Ms. Belcher as the Vice Chair and Ms. Cochran as the Secretary. Ms. Talley seconded the motion. The committee accepted these officers for a second term by vote.

The Patient Complaints Report for May was not available. It will be reviewed along with the June report at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Extraordinary Barriers List was reviewed. It was noted that this is the third month with more than 30 individuals on the list. Time spent at Rating #1 has decreased from 4 weeks to 2 weeks. The new DAP funds are being utilized to assist those who have been on the list for the longest period of time.

Dr. Jeff Phillips presented information regarding the Violence Prevention Protocol for Individuals with Borderline Personality Traits (BPD). Several protocols were developed in 2008 by a committee of staff representing various disciplines. The committee's goal was to develop a plan to reduce violence throughout the hospital. Data indicated which groups of patients had the most violent tendencies. Those identified had Borderline Personality Disorder, were manic or psychotic, and those with Autism Spectrum. The protocols are intended to be suggestions for developing treatment plans for individuals.

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The treatment teams may select specific items from the list that are appropriate for each person to include in their plan.

The BPD protocol also serves to educate staff to behaviors of patients with BPD, and points out what others may consider odd behavior. Those individuals with BPD are highly unique in their behaviors. They tend to develop personal relationships with staff, yet present difficulties in dealing with interpersonal relationships. Because of this tendency, staff are advised of those with BPD and what some of their behaviors might be.

The next meeting will be held July 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:**

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Heidi Campbell  
Chair

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Glenda D. Sheffer  
WSH Administrative Support