

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:30AM
July 25, 2016

- Present:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; John Beghtol, Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate; Artea Ambrose and Maynard Ritchie, OHR Advocates; Gail Burford, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support
- Absent:** Karen Cochran, Secretary and Ski Washington, committee member
- Guests:** Mrs. AS, former patient and her spouse, Mrs. SS; Ms. Tina Stelling, membership candidate; Ms. Becky Shaw, with WSH Social Work Department; Dr. Herb Stewart from unit 2 Oak; Dr. Tim Jana (via telephone) and Dr. Anna Lacey from unit 1 Elm; Ms. Pat Higgins, Director of Social Work

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on July 25, 2016, by Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair. A quorum of members was present. The minutes from the June 27th meeting were reviewed. Ms. Belcher made a motion to accept the minutes with changes. Ms. Talley seconded the motion and the committee accepted the minutes by vote. The agenda was approved as written by a motion from Ms. Belcher, a second from Ms. Talley and vote of the committee.

During the Public Comment time, Mrs. AS (formerly Ms. AM), a former WSH patient, advised the LHRC that she has been discharged today and expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the LHRC and Ms. Ambrose, from the Office of Human Rights, in advocating for her rights and, ultimately, her discharge.

Ms. Ambrose introduced Mr. Maynard Ritchie of the Office of Human Rights. Mr. Ritchie has accepted the position of Human Rights Advocate for Western State Hospital and Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents.

Dr. Herb Stewart presented the Unit Rules for 2 Oak. There were no changes made to the unit rules this year. He expressed his anticipation of the new uniform unit rules being developed by the Uniformity Committee. Ms. Campbell stated she appreciated the contact information on the back of the cover page. The committee asked that the word “ward” be changed to “unit” throughout the rules and attachments. The 2 Oak unit rules were accepted with a motion from Ms. Belcher and a second from Ms. Sumi. The committee voted to accept the 2 Oak unit rules.

The committee interviewed Ms. Christina Stelling as a potential new member. Ms. Stelling’s current employer is accommodating her schedule to allow for her attendance at LHRC meetings.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Belcher, the committee entered closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(1) for the purpose of discussion of appointments to the WSH Local Human Rights Committee.

The committee discussed Ms. Stelling’s candidacy and Ms. Sumi made a motion to recommend approval to the State Human Rights Committee. Mr. Beghtol seconded the motion and the committee voted affirmatively.

Upon reconvening in open session, the Local Human Rights Committee members certified by roll call that, to the best of each ones’ knowledge, only matters identified in §2.2-3711(1) and that are lawfully exempted, were discussed.

Ms. Ambrose presented the Advocate’s Report. She noted:

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:30AM
July 25, 2016

- Our population is aging and many providers are finding themselves dealing with more medical complexity than in the past. Resources are available via the DBHDS website.
- On June 17, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services notified the Commonwealth that they require some additional time to review the Commonwealth's amendments to the three DD waivers. Therefore, the anticipated date for the implementation of the DD Systems Redesign has changed to August 1, 2016.
- The OHR has hired Maynard Ritchie as a new advocate to cover WSH and CCCA. "Ritchie" has many years of experience and will be a great asset to the Human Rights office.
- Mock Hearing Opportunity – OHR Advocates in Region 1/2 are providing hearing trainings to any interested LHRCs in anticipation of increase in hearings with new HR regulations
- The Human Rights Regulatory Package (aka, the new regulations!) has been approved by the SHRC with no changes. The next step is Stage 3 – Executive Branch Review

Additional information and details are attached in a separate document.

The committee indicated they are interested in conducting a Mock Hearing, preferably following a regular scheduled meeting. Ms. Ambrose will contact Mr. Ritchie with a list of possible dates.

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. Tim Jana and Dr. Anna Lacey presented the quarterly treatment plan review for Mr. ND. 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 Patients Complaint Reports for May and June were reviewed. The committee noted the reduced number of complaints received in recent months. They inquired as to the current complaint process. Ms. Sheffer will obtain additional information for the committee.

The Extraordinary Barriers List was reviewed. The number of individuals on the list has decreased slightly from the last several months. Factors that continue to affect the list are an increase in TDOs and the recent increase in the number of individuals being deferred to WSH from other state facilities due to a lack of available beds. Other individuals are placed on the list due to increased difficulties in finding placement.

Community Connections comments included the following:

Mr. Beghtol provided information regarding NAMI

- Board is seeking a representative for geriatric patients.
- Concept paper for the establishment of Crisis Stabilization, Detox, and Diversion facilities in this area has been completed and will be presented to legislators on August 1st. The board continues to seek individuals who can provide testimony to legislators.

Ms. Sumi updated the committee on MHA-A events and actions

- Written a grant to provide four 6-week sessions led by a facilitator on a variety of topics, such as depression, medication management, autism, etc.

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:30AM
July 25, 2016

- During Mental Health Month in May of 2017, MHAA will present awards for exceptional providers, consumers and committee members. A committee is being developed to review nominations.
- A concert will be held on August 13th and a fundraising event is being planned for October. They are collaborating with BRCC to develop marketing tools.

Mr. Ski Washington, committee member, has not attended a meeting since his installation on the committee in September of 2015. The committee is considering removing Mr. Washington from the committee per provisions for attendance in the WSH LHRC Bylaws. Ms. Sheffer will prepare and mail a letter to Mr. Washington to advise him of this, and that, should he chose, he is welcome to address the committee at the August 22nd meeting prior to a committee vote.

Ms. Pat Higgins, WSH Director of Social Work, discussed the Extraordinary Barriers List and the process for patients to be discharged and thereby removed from the list. There were 30 individuals on the list in July 2015 and 28 on the list July 2016.

The next meeting will be held August 22, 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 location.

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

APPROVED:

Heidi Campbell
Chair

Glenda D. Sheffer
WSH Administrative Support