

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:00AM
October 24, 2016

- Present:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Karen Cochran, Secretary; Tina Stelling, Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members; Maynard Ritchie and Artea Ambrose, OHR Advocates; Gail Burford, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support
- Absent:** Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; John Beghtol, committee member; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate
- Guests:** Mr. Russell Strange, community visitor, Mr. Jim Stevens, Director of Rehabilitative Services

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on October 24, 2016, by Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair. A quorum of members was present. The minutes from the September 26th meeting were reviewed. Ms. Cochran made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Stelling seconded the motion and the committee accepted the minutes by vote. The agenda was approved by a motion from Ms. Sumey, a second from Ms. Talley and vote of the committee.

During the Public Comment time, Mr. Russell Strange, a community consumer, chose not to make comments at this time. He was offered an opportunity to address the committee later in the meeting.

Mr. Jim Stevens, Director of Rehabilitative Services, presented the section of the PSR (Psycho-Social Rehabilitation) Operations Manual that applies to patients. There were no changes from last year. The rules in this manual are designed to maintain an environment that allows everyone to participate fully in groups and activities. Contact information for the the Human Rights Advocate is posted throughout the Learning Center and Commons. Ms. Sumey made a motion to accept the PSR Operations Manual. The motion was seconded by Ms. Talley and accepted by a vote of the committee.

Mr. Maynard Ritchie, with Ms. Artea Ambrose, presented the Advocate's Report. The proposed Human Rights Regulations are moving through the final stage of the approval process, and are currently in the Governor's office for review. Information can be found on the Virginia Town Hall website at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewchapter.cfm?chapterid=2105>. It was also noted that FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training will be provided to the LHRCs soon due to changes in the Code. Advocates will receive training and will then provide training to committee members.

The annual Bylaws review presented questions and comments; however, no changes were suggested. The committee approved the bylaws as written and recommended them to the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) for final approval. The recommendation was made by a motion from Ms. Cochran, seconded by Ms. Sumey and approved by a vote of the committee. Ms. Sheffer will forward the bylaws to Mr. Ritchie for advancement to the SHRC.

Mr. Strange was asked if he would like to address the committee at this time. He commented that he feels that when patients are discharged from the hospital and return to the community, "the world collapses on them." Services, such as buses and telephones, become difficult to access and that these individuals are left at home alone with no support system.

The Patient Complaint Report for August and September was presented to the committee. There was considerable discussion regarding the report. It was determined that the LHRC is not required to review this report according to the Human Rights Regulations. Ms. Campbell felt that the responsibilities of the committee are being reduced; however, Ms. Ambrose reiterated that a review of this information has not been a part of the Regulations.

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Upon a motion made by Ms. Campbell, 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. Timothy Jana presented the treatment plan for Mr. ND for quarterly review. The plan was approved for another three months.

Dr. Jason Stout presented a new treatment plan for Ms. CZ. The plan was approved for three months.

Dr. Catherine Leslie presented the treatment plan for Ms. MB for quarterly review. The plan was approved for another 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 Extraordinary Barriers List was reviewed. One of the patients who had been on the list for an extended period has been discharged.

Community Connections comments included the following:

Ms. Campbell indicated that Valley Community Services Board has three vacancies on their LHRC. She asked the committee to consider potential volunteers.

Ms. Stelling noted that the Out of the Darkness – We Care Augusta Suicide Prevention walk held on October 8th had an excellent turnout.

Ms. Sumey presented information regarding upcoming events for Mental Health America – Augusta:

- A seminar on Dementia will be held at Mary Baldwin University, Murphy Demming Center in room 115 at 6:00PM tomorrow (October 25th).
- A dinner to raise funds called “Boots and Brews” will be held Friday, October 28th at Hermitage Hill Farm. Dinner will be catered by Hank’s Barbeque. Beer and wine will be available; there will be live music and a silent auction.
- The Annual Business Meeting will be held on November 17th at 6:00PM. Dr. Mary Clare Smith will be the guest speaker.
- A seminar on Understanding Autism will be held on November 29th at the Murphy Demming Center.

Ms. Cochran indicated that VASI is currently raising funds for upcoming projects. The goal is \$250,000.

The next meeting will be held December 5, 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