

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:00AM*  
*January 30, 2017*

**Present:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, Karen Cochran, Secretary; John Beghtol, Tina Stelling, committee members; Maynard Ritchie and Artea Ambrose, OHR Advocates; Jenny Dick-Mosher, dLCV Advocate; Gail Burford, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

**Absent:** Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members;

**Guests:** Dr. Timothy Jana, 1 Elm; Dr. Jason Stout, 1 Pine

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on January 30, 2017, by Ms. Campbell, Committee Chair. A quorum of members was present.

**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.

**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.**

Mr. Beghtol requested that a discussion of least restrictive treatment alternatives be added to the agenda. The agenda was approved with changes by a motion from Mr. Beghtol, a second from Ms. Stelling and vote of the committee. The minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Ms. Cochran made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Beghtol seconded the motion and the committee accepted the minutes by vote.

There were no visitors in attendance to comment during the Public Comment time.

Mr. Maynard Ritchie, with Ms. Artea Ambrose, presented the Advocate's Report. Mr. Ritchie commented on upcoming reporting deadlines for providers.

Ms. Ambrose reported that Governor Terry McAuliffe signed the revised Human Rights Regulations on January 9, 2017. Those regulations will become effective on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The final text of the regulations may be found at [www.townhall.virginia.gov](http://www.townhall.virginia.gov). Mr. Ritchie indicated he would forward the link to the committee members following the meeting. He received a memorandum from Ms. Deb Lockhart outlining changes to the regulations that he will also forward to committee members. Ms. Ambrose provided committee members with a copy of Section 12VAC35-115-270 which outlines the responsibilities of the State and local human rights committees.

**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. Jason Stout presented the treatment plan for Ms. CZ for quarterly review. The plan was approved for another three months.

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Mr. Beghtol commented on number A.1. of subsection 270. He is concerned that the rights of patients who are clinically ready to leave the hospital, but cannot, are being violated. Ms. Ambrose noted that patients who are concerned about not being released in a timely manner under the Therapeutic Discharge Process may address their concerns through the complaint process. Mr. Beghtol made a motion to request the Director of Social Work at WSH, attend the monthly LHRC meetings to review and discuss the Extraordinary Barriers List (EBL). Ms. Stelling seconded the motion, which was approved by vote of the committee. The committee agreed that a designee was also acceptable.

Ms. Cochran questioned whether emergency meetings would be necessary to review restrictions lasting longer than 7 days. Ms. Sheffer noted that in the event the restriction exceeds 7 days, and a monthly meeting is not eminent, the committee could be called upon for an emergency meeting to review the restriction. This is a point for clarification during training regarding the new regulations.

Ms. Ambrose contacted Ms. Tamika Goldman, Assistant Director of Human Rights, by phone to respond to questions from the LHRC regarding the EBL. Mr. Beghtol restated his concerns regarding the EBL and the committee not being provided a copy of this list. He reiterated his motion to request a verbal presentation of the EBL. Ms. Goldman indicated she was seeking additional guidance on this issue. While Ms. Goldman stated that this review is not a primary responsibility of the LHRC, she does support the committee receiving a verbal report of the list.

Ms. Ambrose advised the committee that training by the Office of Human Rights and for LHRC members regarding the new revision of HR regulations will be forthcoming.

Mr. Beghtol shared with the committee that he had received information indicating that WSH is being required to maintain availability for 3 temporary beds over planned census. Ms. Burford responded that this requirement has been requested of all DBHDS facilities. At this time, WSH has not utilized the temporary beds.

Ms. Burford reported that Uniform Unit Rules are nearing the end of their approval process.

Ms. Sheffer reminded the committee that two of the current members will be leaving the committee in June this year. Proposed new members will be interviewed by the committee no later than April in order to facilitate timely approval by the State Human Rights Committee in time for them to begin their service in July.

Community Connections comments included the following:

Mr. Beghtol commented that NAMI-Augusta has teamed with Valley CSB to request initial funding for the Crisis Stabilization and Detox Integrated System. Through the efforts of Delegate Steve Landes and Senator Emmett Hanger, companion budget amendments have been proposed for \$400,000 for planning.

Ms. Stelling shared the details of an upcoming NAMI benefit show. The show will be held June 15<sup>th</sup>. Two bands are scheduled to perform. Many donations from local businesses will be raffled. All funds generated from the event will remain in the local community.

Ms. Cochran shared news from VASI:

- A state grant application has been submitted.
- They are beginning to work on some structural tasks outside the building where 8 new rooms are being established.

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- An agreement is being developed with Murphy Demming College to have students come to work with VASI residents as part of their educational program.
- VASI now has an office on Johnson Street in Staunton for their Executive Director.

Ms. Christy Cacciapaglia presented information regarding the WSH Culture and Linguistic Competency Committee (CLCC) at WSH. Ms. Cacciapaglia is the Director of Community Relations for WSH and is Co-chair of the CLCC. The CLCC was developed two years ago to introduce cultural acceptance, both physically and socially, to the staff. This acceptance relates to those of different nationalities, backgrounds and lifestyles. Efforts made by the committee include converting single unit bathrooms to non-gender specific status. Staff is educated and encouraged to appreciate that everyone can fit in receiving the treatment they need. The committee has arranged Spanish language classes for direct care staff. WSH provides Spanish speaking and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters as well as providing a telephonic interpreter service for other languages. Ms. Cochran asked if the CLCC is working to assist ID patients by providing materials for reading and activities. Ms. Cacciapaglia responded that the committee has not made plans for this type of support; however, she will present this excellent suggestion to the committee for consideration.

The next meeting will be held February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00AM 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:**

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Heidi Campbell  
Chair

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Glenda D. Sheffer  
WSH Administrative Support