

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Webb Learning Center, Room B1031 at 9:00AM*  
*February 27, 2017*

**Present:** Kathy Belcher, Vice Chair; Karen Cochran, Secretary; Tina Stelling, Teri Sumey and Cheryl Talley, committee members; Maynard Ritchie, OHR Advocate; Jenny Dick-Mosher, dLCV Advocate; Gail Burford, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

**Absent:** Heidi Campbell, Committee Chair, John Beghtol, committee members

**Guests:** Dr. Herb Stewart, 2 Oak; Dr. Erin Gallagher and Dr. Elia Valladares, 2 Pine

The Local Human Rights Committee was called to order on February 27, 2017, by Ms. Belcher, Vice Chair. A quorum of members was present. The minutes from the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved without changes by a motion from Ms. Cochran, a second by Ms. Sumey and a vote of the committee.

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

Mr. Patrick Robertson, WSH Risk Manager, presented the WSH Universal Rules Handbook and the accompanying Hospital Instruction. The Universal Unit Rules were developed for use by all units and areas. The consistency will benefit patients transferring from one unit to another as well as “float” staff that move between units. The Human Rights Regulations were consulted in the development of the rules.

The Handbook includes information on how to submit a complaint. Ms. Stelling requested a modification to the verbiage on Page 6 under Concerns or Complaints to add a description of how the patient can obtain the form. She went on to reference a comment on Page 11 under All Weather Porch; the sentence, “Opportunities to access the all-weather porch for residents who do not have the privileges needed...” is not clear and is not a complete sentence. Ms. Belcher suggested the possibility of adding, “... are available.” Regarding Page 16 under Accessible Areas, Ms. Stelling suggested adding AM and PM, as appropriate, throughout the document to clarify times. Ms. Belcher suggested including a table of contents to the Handbook for ease of use when searching for specific topics.

Mr. Robertson indicated that he is in contact with individual units regarding those who might need to create a brief addendum regarding specific needs for their unique circumstances and populations.

Ms. Cochran asked about how unit rules will be posted and distributed to patients and families. Mr. Robertson responded that the rules will be physically posted on each unit. Individuals will be given a copy of the rules upon request.

Ms. Stelling made a motion to approve the unit rules with changes. Ms. Sumey seconded the motion. The unit rules were approved by a vote of the committee.

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Belcher, the committee entered closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, A.15 and §2.2-3705.5 for the purpose of discussion of medical record / treatment plans.**

Dr. Herb Stewart, from PCU 2 Oak presented the treatment plan for Ms. DC. The plan was approved for three months.

Dr. Erin Gallagher and Dr. Elie Valladares, from PCU 2 Pine, presented the treatment plan for Ms. CM for committee review. The plan was approved for three months.

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**Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each one's 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.**

Ms. Burford presented an update regarding the Extraordinary Barriers List. As of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 54 clients were on the EBL. Several discharges were in progress. Central Office requested a list of barriers and service needs for those clinically ready for discharge. This information was sent on February 15<sup>th</sup>. A Regional Census meeting was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>; the Regional EBL Conference was held on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Ninety-nine percent of DAP funds specifically for Western State have been allocated.

Ms. Dick-Mosher, dLCV Advocate, provided information on the Dual Diagnosis Project. Placement of dually diagnosed individuals has been determined to be a systemic issue. When individuals with an ID/DD diagnosis and a mental health diagnosis are ready for discharge, it is difficult to find placements. The dLCV has created a form on their web page for individuals to relate their own stories, so that assistance may be provided. The link to the form is: [www.dLCV.org/crisis](http://www.dLCV.org/crisis).

In the Advocate's Report, Mr. Maynard Ritchie commented that he has sought clarification as to when and how the Office of Human Rights will provide training on the new Human Rights Regulations. He will advise the committee when more information becomes available.

Community Connections comments included the following:

- Ms. Sumey noted the opening of the annual art show. MHA, NAMI and Western State will sponsor the annual art show beginning April 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Stelling will be a keynote speaker at the opening. More information is available at [www.saartcenter.org](http://www.saartcenter.org).
- Ms. Cochran commented on the State's recognition of the need for mental health services in prisons and jails. For example, Middle River Regional Jail, who previously employed a part time mental health worker, will be adding two full time mental health workers to their staff. They are also considering housing options for individuals with mental health issues to work their way into the community. VASI is requesting funding to provide housing for these individuals.
- Ms. Stelling reminded everyone of the upcoming NAMI Benefit Show to be held on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. She is accepting donations from local artisans to be raffled off during the event. The event is being held at the Pompei Lounge in downtown Staunton.

The next meeting will be held March 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