

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
*March 24, 2014*

**Present:** Hal Meyers, Committee Chair, Kathy Belcher, Heidi Campbell, Vice Chair, Donna Gum, Rob Wade, Mahlon Webb, committee members; Chuck Collins, WSH/Regional Advocate; Mark Seymour, WSH Advocate; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director

**Absent:** Mark Schorsch, committee member

**Guests:** Mr. John Beghtol, Ms. Vickie Cash Graff, SHRC representative, Mr. Moriah Tolten, JMU Intern

Mr. Meyers, Committee Chair, called the Local Human Rights Committee to order on March 24, 2014. The committee approved the minutes as written from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with a motion by Mr. Wade, a second by Ms. Belcher and a vote of the committee. Mr. Wade noted that a quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved as written with a motion from Ms. Campbell, a second by Mr. Webb and a vote of the committee.

During the public comment, Mr. Meyers expressed his appreciation of those individuals from the committee who attended the SHRC in March, they were Mr. Webb, Mr. Wade and Mr. Collins. He also expressed appreciation toward Ms. Mary Pryor, Staff Development Manager, for coordinating the use of the large meeting room.

Mr. Collins noted that a member of the State Human Rights Committee was attending this meeting. Ms. Victoria Cash Graff attended to gain further knowledge of how a local committee operates.

Mr. John Beghtol, WSH Director of Community Relations, shared information about the history of Western State, specifically the changes that have occurred since he began working here. Mr. Beghtol is scheduled to retire effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, and will be taking a great deal of knowledge about the hospital with him.

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Gum, the committee went into 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.**

**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 Advocates' Report was presented by Mr. Collins and Mr. Seymour. No major issues were identified.

Ms. Haw provided information regarding changes that have, and will continue to happen at disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV), formerly VOPA. None of the changes will affect how dLCV and WSH work together.

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Dr. Tim Jana presented the unit rules for 1 Elm. 1 Elm is a long term care unit with a predominately male population, a large number of whom have NGRI status. Mr. Webb made a motion to accept the 1 Elm Unit Rule changes as written. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion and the committee approved by vote.

Unit rules for 1 Pine were presented by Dr. Jason Stout. Dr. Stout was accompanied by an intern, Ms. Cheyenne Shafer. He commented that 1 Pine is a long term care unit, has an equal combination of male and female patients. Ms. Campbell raised a motion to approve the 1 Pine Unit Rules. Ms. Gum provided a second for the motion. The committee approved the rules by vote.

Doctors Gardella, Bonacci and Rawls, as well as Ms. Stacy Hayes and Ms. Eva Wilson, social workers on Unit 2 Elm, were available for questions from the committee regarding the unit rules and the explanation for not submitting any changes when the LHRC initially requested them. They responded to questions from the LHRC and indicated they would provide their updated unit rules for the committee's review at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In regards to the Complaint Report, it was noted that the report was clear and complete. The committee asked that we pass their appreciation on to Ms. Burns.

On the Extraordinary Barriers List, Ms. Belcher commented that it appears that none of the patient records had been updated in the last month. The committee asked Ms. Sheffer if she could general the EBL closer to the LHRC meeting date so that the information is as current as possible. Ms. Sheffer indicated she would review the report from the month and compare it to a report from one week prior to the next meeting, when generating the April report.

Regarding the Internal Forensic Privilege Committee minutes and the Clinical Risk Management Committee minutes, Mr. Collins noted that the CRMC functions in an advisory capacity only. All decisions regarding patient levels are made by the treatment team on the respective unit.

Ms. Gum provided information regarding the upcoming events the MHAA is presenting during Mental Health Month in May. Mr. Tolton reported the legislative update.

The next meeting will be held May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1085 of the Staff Development Offices.

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

**APPROVED:**

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Hal Meyers, Chair

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Glenda D. Sheffer, LHRC Secretary

**Please note:** The format of the meeting minutes has changed due to information Mr. Collins received from the SHRC. We will continue with this concise format.