

Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
*Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30*  
*May 19, 2014*

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

**Absent:** Heidi Campbell, Mark Schorsch, Mahlon Webb, committee members;

**Guests:** Catherine Gill, dLCV Advocate

Mr. Meyers, Committee Chair, called the Local Human Rights Committee to order on May 19, 2014. The committee approved the minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting pending corrections with a motion by Ms. Belcher, a second by Ms. Gum and a vote of the committee. Mr. Wade noted that a quorum of members was present. The agenda was approved with changes, with a motion from Ms. Gum, a second by Ms. Belcher and a vote of the committee.

There were no patients or public guests in attendance during the time allotted for public comments. Ms. Haw introduced Ms. Gill to the committee. Ms. Gill is a new member of the dLCV team.

The Advocates' Report was presented by Mr. Collins and Mr. Seymour. Mr. Collins noted that he had been in contact with Mark Schorsch. Mr. Schorsch is doing well and hopes to return to the LHRC soon. He has asked for patience from the committee while he needs to be away, and stated that he definitely wants to remain on the committee. Mr. Wade made a motion that the committee express their appreciation to Mr. Schorsch for his commitment to the LHRC and to let him know his place on the committee will be available when he is able to return. Ms. Belcher seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of the committee.

Dr. Lane Baggett presented the unit rules for Dogwood, formerly MACS. She indicated that the majority of changes were related to the new hospital environment. The committee members made several suggestions for corrections, for which Dr. Baggett expressed appreciation. Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the unit rules. Ms. Belcher seconded the motion and the committee approved by vote.

In a continuation of the Advocates' Report, Mr. Collins noted the department is currently engaged in two major projects, closing the training centers and adapting to comply with new statutes enacted by the General Assembly. New admissions are up across the state, possibly as a result of the recent tragedy involving Senator Deeds' family. Consequently, discharges are also higher than usual. The staffing level at WSH is low, and the increased number of patients is difficult for existing staff to manage. The committee requested staffing information from the Nursing Department as it relates to census. A request was also made to invite Anna Tuomisto, Director of Admissions, to discuss the bed registry.

**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.**

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**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 continued with their report: Mr. Seymour indicated the majority of requests he receives are to accompany the patient to a Treatment Planning Conference. He is also following the investigation of two incidents of alleged abuse.

Mr. Collins briefly discussed the new Human Rights Regulations. A draft of the regulations has been submitted to the board, and, if approved, will be forwarded to the Planning and Budget Committee, and then to the public for comment. This process may take up to a year to complete.

Ms. Haw noted that the Public Input Survey has been posted on the dLCV website and encouraged everyone to participate. The dLCV has been asked to reach out to mental health consumers regarding voting rights and/or the restoration of voting rights, so the hospitals will be seeing more of this in the upcoming months.

There being no comments regarding the Complaint Report, Ms. Gum made a motion to accept the report as written, and Ms. Belcher seconded the motion. A vote of the committee accepted the report.

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There were also no comments regarding the Extraordinary Barriers List.

The Internal Forensic Privilege Committee (IFPC) minutes and the Clinical Risk Management Committee (CRMC) minutes were reviewed. Mr. Wade asked about a NGRI patient who has had two approved unescorted community passes. This individual is prepared for discharge, and the court has approved his discharge. In these situations, the Forensic Review Panel (FRP) may approve unescorted passes.

May is Mental Health Month! Ms. Gum commented on the play, "Next To Normal", which is a representation of life with mental illness. The final performance on Sunday was followed by a Panel Discussion, for which many spectators remained.

The billboard is in place on Route 11 just north of Staunton. The golf tournament will be on June 6<sup>th</sup>. WSH provides a team annually for the tournament. Ms. Gum also encouraged the members to direct anyone who may wish to participate in the tournament to her.

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The next meeting will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. in Room A1085 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