

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffrey's Building, Room 95 at 12:30
June 22, 2015

Present: Rob Wade, Committee Chair, Karen Cochran, Mahlon Webb, committee members; Mark Seymour, Regional Advocate; Becky Shaw, Liaison to WSH Director; Glenda Sheffer, WSH Administrative Support

Absent: Heidi Campbell, Vice Chair, Kathy Belcher, committee member; Erin Haw, dLCV Advocate

Guests: Ms. Teri Sumey, member candidate

Mr. Wade, Committee Chair, called the Local Human Rights Committee to order on June 22, 2015. Mr. Wade noted that three members were present, which is sufficient to conduct business as a sub-committee only. The minutes from the May 18th meeting were reviewed and will be recommended for approval at the July meeting. The agenda was modified to add Dr. Jeff Phillips at 2:30PM to discuss the treatment plan for Mr. MS.

During the public comment session, Mr. JR, a patient on unit 1 Pine, requested assistance from the LHRC regarding his medication regimen. He is currently being prescribed Zyprexa and has concerns about the side effects it presents. He is also concerned that his treatment team will not allow the use of non-prescription herbal supplements and vitamins that he had been using prior to WSH implementing the OneMind electronic medical record. It appears that this system does not allow for any type of medication to be taken by patients without being ordered by a physician. He indicated that he was told he could use these again after being discharged.

Mr. R also indicated that he believes items that were removed from his private room as the result of an incident were not returned to him. Two items were framed artwork and one was an electric razor, the latter of which he was told would be placed in the secure Patient Property area, yet was not found during a search of his stored property. He reports having sent multiple complaints to Dr. Mary Clare Smith, Acting Facility Director, without any response.

Mr. Wade advised Mr. R that the committee would look into his concerns and will report back to him at the July 27th meeting. Dr. Steve Nichols and Dr. Jason Stout, of the 1 Pine Treatment Team, will be asked to attend the July meeting to discuss the medication concerns raised by Mr. R.

Also during public comment, Mr. MS, a patient on unit 1 Hickory, indicated that he has heard from other patients, primarily others on 1 Hickory, that they have not been receiving responses from Dr. Smith regarding complaints they have submitted. Ms. Sheffer will discuss the complaint resolution process with Kim Burns, who records and tracks patient complaints for WSH, to search for a possible explanation for patients not receiving responses to their complaints.

The Unit Rules for 2 Pine were presented by Dr. Judith Curry-El, Dr. Eugene Simopoulos, Dr. Erin Gallagher, Dr. James Lee, Ms. Sue Horst, RN, and Ms. Anna Degan, Social Worker. There were few changes to the rules this year. Dr. Curry-El reviewed the changes that were made. The sub-committee recommended approval of the unit rules and will present them to the full committee at the July meeting. The results of that discussion will be emailed to Dr. Curry-El.

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In the advocate's report, Mr. Seymour discussed legislative actions involving mental health that will be added to the Code of Virginia on July 1st. They were regarding the civil admission process, temporary detention orders and the Psychiatric Bed Registry. He also noted that the Southern Virginia Training Center closure is complete. The next training center to close will be Northern Virginia Training Center in March 2016.

The Internal Forensic Privilege Committee (IFPC) minutes and the Clinical Risk Management Committee (CRMC) minutes were discussed. These two reports have not been useful to the Local Human Rights Committee, and it was, therefore, decided that they will no longer be reviewed at the monthly meetings. Ms. Shaw will advise those responsible for these reports that they no longer need to send them to Ms. Sheffer for inclusion in the meeting materials.

The May Patient Complaints Report was reviewed. As discussed earlier, patients are reporting that they are not receiving responses from the Director's Office when they submit a complaint. Ms. Sheffer will investigate this issue and report to the committee in July.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wade, 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.

The treatment plan for Mr. SM was presented by Dr. Laura Santiago and Dr. Herb Stewart. The committee approved the plan and requested the plan be reviewed quarterly.

Dr. Jeff Phillips presented changes to the previously approved treatment plan for Mr. MS. The committee approved the changes and requested that the plan continue to be reviewed quarterly.

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.

While reviewing the Extraordinary Barriers List, it was noted that DAP funding continues to be the primary reason for delays in the discharge process for many patients.

The next meeting will be held July 27th, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. in Room A1085 of the Staff Development Offices.

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

APPROVED:

Rob Wade
Chair

Glenda D. Sheffer
WSH Administrative Support