

**CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL  
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Central State Hospital  
26317 W. Washington Street  
Building 113, Main Conference Room  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803  
September 1, 2006  
8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

Chana Ramsey, Chair; Isabel Vartanian, Member; and Cleveland Rodgers, Member

**Guests:**

Dr. Charles, CSH Facility Medical Director; Jennifer Barker, Patient Rights Coordinator/CSH; Michael Curseen, Human Rights Advocate/Office of Human Rights; Jim Bell, Forensic Unit Director/CSH; Dr. Ronald Forbes, CSH Medical Director; Dr. T. G. Sriram, Psychiatrist/CSH; Dr. S. Yaratha, Psychiatrist/CSH; Colonel James Lowery, Director of Forensic Security/CSH; and Rose Mitchell, Executive Secretary/Office of Human Rights.

**Absent:**

Betty Velez, LHRC Member; Linda Masri, LHRC Member; Violet Hite, LHRC Vice-Chair.

**I. Call to Order: 8:55 am**

**II. Minutes of August 4, 2006, Meeting**

The minutes of the August 4, 2006, meeting were accepted, but could not be approved for **lack of a quorum**.

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. New Business**

A. Resignation of Tonya Cunningham, Human Rights Advocate

Mr. Curseen reported that Ms. Cunningham had submitted her resignation to the Office of Human Rights to accept another position. He further stated that The vacant position is being advertised.

**The Committee accepted Mr. Curseen's report.**

B. Update of Spit Guard for August 2006:

Mr. Curseen reported that there was no reported spit mask usage during the month of August 2006.

C. Monthly Variance Report for August 2006 – Presented by Jim Bell

Mr. Bell reported that there were no reportable incidents involving the four approved forensic variances during the month of August 2006.

Mr. Bell also requested that the 4 current variances be recommended for re-approval by the SHRC at the October 27, 2006 SHRC meeting. Colonel James Lowery, Forensic Security Director addressed questions and provided photos of actual contraband items that have been found concealed either in patient's mail or on the patient's body or clothing in the forensic buildings at CSH.

**The Committee accepted Mr. Bell's and Col. Lowery's report, but were prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**

D. Research Proposal: Utility of the Shedler-Westen Assessment Procedure–II (SWAP- II) and Forensic Risk Assessment Scale (FRAS) for Predicting Aggression in Forensic Psychiatric In-Patients - Presented by Dr. Sriram

Research involves extracting data obtained from the Analysis of Aggressive Behavior instrument which is currently administered to all newly admitted forensic patients. The extracted data is reviewed by the clinician using the SWAP-II and the FRAS instruments for the purpose of predicting aggression by patients in the forensic mental hospital setting. This research is considered non-human research since it does not involve lab procedures, direct contact with patients or reveal any patient specific information.

**The Committee accepted Dr. Sriram's report, but were prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**

**(Executive Session)**

The committee approved a Motion to move into Executive session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711 (A), Paragraph 15, for the protection of the privacy of individuals and their records in personal matters not related to public business.

**The following subject matters were discussed in Executive Session:**

**Monthly Abuse Summary: July 2006**  
**Formal Human Rights Complaints – August 2006**  
**E.C.T.**

**(Return to Open Session)**

Upon reconvening in open session, the Central State Hospital Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each member'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

- B. Monthly Abuse Summary: July 2006 – Presented by Jennifer Barker  
**The Committee accepted Ms. Barker's report but was prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**
- C. Formal Human Rights Complaints – August 2006 – Presented by Jennifer Barker  
**The Committee accepted Ms. Barker's report but was prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**
- E. E.C.T. Proposal RE: R. H. – Presented by Dr. Yaratha  
Dr. Yaratha presented the case involving R. H. to the Committee and provided evidence that the requirements for consent and notification had been satisfied. Dr. Yaratha agreed to provide a follow-up progress report of the status of R. H. following the E.C.T. at the November 3, 2006 LHRC meeting.

**The Committee accepted Dr. Yaratha's report but was prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**

**F. Follow-up Business**

1. Review of Chair's Request for follow-up Concerning Letter to SHRD Requesting Attorney General's Opinion: RE: Case # 05-0107

The Chair reported that although Ms. Karen Walters of the Office of Attorney General has not yet responded to the Committee's requests for an opinion, Ms. Walters did briefly speak with the Chair by phone and communicated with her briefly via e-mail. Mr. Curseen stated that according to Margaret Walsh, Director of Human Rights, Ms. Walters is planning to provide a response to the Committee's response.

2. LHRC Request for Follow-up Report: Satisfaction Survey RE: Inadequate Housekeeping Services – Bldg. 39 – Presented by Mrs. Jennifer Barker

Mrs. Barker distributed the "Quality of the Cleanliness of Your Ward" Survey which included the recommended changes requested by the Committee. The Committee acknowledged the recommended changes to

the survey and inquired when the report would be available to patients.

Mrs. Barker stated that SVTC (who is responsible for the housekeeping staff) would be notified that the form would be utilized and given out quarterly. Mrs. Barker will collect the data and submit her findings to SVTC. Mrs. Barker will also assist those patients who may have difficulty in completing the survey.

**The Committee accepted Ms. Barker's report but was prevented from taking action due to a lack of a quorum.**

## **VII. Director's Comments:**

Dr. Davis requested Dr. Forbes to report on the following:

A former social worker, Mr. John Donovan, who died while hiking along the Appalachian Trail will have a trail here at CSH named in his honor. The trail is over a mile long and a number of employees will dedicate the trail with markers along the path. Dr. James Reinhard, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services will be present to dedicate the trail. Dr. Forbes stated that this is a timely event which compliments Central State Hospital's "Spring Into Health" campaign.

Dr. Davis also surprised Committee members with a gift of umbrellas, which were especially appreciated since this region was experiencing a tropical depression and extreme rain.

## **VIII. Adjournment: 10:35 am**

**Next Meeting Dates: October 6, 2006**