

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

**Central State Hospital  
26317 W. Washington Street  
Building 113, Main Conference Room  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803  
January 5, 2007  
8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

Chana Ramsey, Chair; Violet Hite, Vice- Chair; Isabel Vartanian, Member; Linda Masri, Member; Jane Clayborne, Member.

**Guests:**

Dr. Charles Davis, CSH Facility Director; Jennifer Barker, Patient Rights Coordinator/CSH; Michael Curseen, Human Rights Advocate/Office of Human Rights; Carrie Flowers, Human Rights Advocate/Office of Human Rights; Colonel James Lowery, CSH Forensic Unit Security Director; Lt. Bland, CSH Forensic Security; SST Diggs, CSH Forensic Security; SST Scott, CSH Forensic Security ; SST Williams, CSH Forensic Security; SST Taylor, CSH Forensic Security; Joyce Grecco, CSH Assistant Director of Nursing; and Rose Mitchell, Executive Secretary/Office of Human Rights.

**Absent:**

Cleveland Rodgers, Member

**I. Call to Order: 8:30 am**

**II. Minutes of December 1, 2006, Meeting**

The minutes were approved without comment

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. New Business**

- A. Monthly Variance Report for December 2006 – Presented by Jennifer Barker

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

**Action: The Committee approved a motion to accept Mrs. Barker's report.**

**(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: November 2006  
Formal Human Rights Complaints – December 2006  
Spit Guard Usage – December 2006**

**(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: November 2006 – Presented by Jennifer Barker

**A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept Ms. Barker's report.**

- C. Formal Human Rights Complaints – December 2006 – Presented by Jennifer Barker

**The Committee approved a motion to accept Ms. Barker's reports.**

- D. Spit Mask Usage – December 2006 – Presented by Michael Curseen

Mr. Curseen stated that there no reported usage of the spit mask during the month of December 2006.

**The Committee approved a motion to accept Mr. Curseen's report.**

- V. Follow-up Business

1. LHRC Follow-up Request RE: Demonstration of Forensic Pat-down Searches for Male & Female Patients – Presented by James Lowery, Forensic Unit Security Director

Col. Lowery explained to the Committee that pat downs are conducted whenever, there is movement of patients from one area to another. He also stated that a number of contraband home-made weapons have been found in the patients possession. Col. Lowery made has pictures of numerous contraband items that have been found. He further stated that an item such as a battery could be used as a weapon by peeling the metal off the battery and sharpening it in order to hurt someone.

Col. Lowery then turned the meeting over to his SSTs to demonstrate how a pat down is conducted on female and male patients. He emphasized that pat down searches of patients are done by male and female staff of the same sex. Col. Lowery explained that pat downs are done in pairs, where one SST is doing the pat down and the other SST is observing the pat down. This is done to insure that the client is not being improperly touched.

SST Taylor and SST Williams (both females) performed a pat down. This procedure begins with the client removing their shoes. The SST begins with the hair and moves down the body while making sure that her hands are turned outward for searches around the breast and groin areas.

SST Scott and SST Diggs (both males) performed the same pat down as the females, making sure that the hands are turned outward when checking the groin areas.

Mr. Curseen thanked the security personnel for demonstrating the pat down procedures. He explained that there were several new LHRC members who had never witnessed a pat down and that their demonstration was very informative.

**Action:** The Committee thanked the Security Team for their demonstrations and requested to see photographs of actual contraband items found.

2. LHRC Request for Update RE: Demonstration of Application of 4-point Ambulatory Restraints & Demonstration of Spit Mask – Presented by Jennifer Barker, Patient Rights Coordinator and Joyce Grecco, Assistant Director of Nursing

Ms. Barker applied a 2-point restraint and a spit mask on Ms. Grecco in order to demonstrate to the Committee a patient's range of movement while in restraints. The Committee also noted that the spit mask did not appear to obstruct the patient's ability to breathe. Ms. Grecco also demonstrated that while wearing the restraints, she could reach up and pull

the spit mask off with ease.

Dr. Davis told Committee members that before a mechanical restraint could be used, a physician's order must be obtained and that while in restraints, a patient is maintained on a 1:1 status. Dr. Davis further stated that the objective of CSH is to eliminate the use of bed restraints.

**Action:** The Committee thanked Ms. Barker and Ms. Grecco for their presentation and requested to view an application of 4-point restraints in order to demonstrate how patients are able to maneuver. Ms. Barker agreed to arrange a demonstration of the use of 4-point restraints at the February 2, 2007 LHRC meeting.

3. Review of Chair's Request for Follow-up Concerning Letter to SHRD Requesting Attorney General's Opinion Regarding Issues Identified in Abuse Case # 05-0105.

Mr. Curseen gave the Committee a brief description of Case # 05-0105 and the purpose of Form 201A. He further stated that Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director had suggested a Fact Finding, but the Committee felt this wasn't an effective way to proceed for this case. The Committee decided to request clarification from the Attorney General's Office in April of 2006. However, as of this date, the Committee has received no response from the Attorney General's Office. The Committee then agreed to send a request for a review and response to the questions raised by the Committee concerning case # 05-0105 to the SHRC. The SHRC is scheduled to meet at SVTC on January 26, 2007. Mr. Curseen suggested that it would be helpful and informative for the LHRC members to be in attendance for this agenda item.

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

Dr. Davis spoke about the training facility directors received at VCU and UVA concerning the development and implementation of a High Performance Organization. Dr. Davis explained that all levels of staff (developmental techs, nurses, etc.) would be included in the leadership process in acknowledgment that people who do the work are the most knowledgeable concerning the work they perform. Dr. Davis stated that his pet project is the improvement of staff attitudes in the face of the extreme taken by CSH staff each day. He explained that law enforcement officers are paid more and are able to employ tactics and use offensive weapons when transporting patients to CSH but the CSH staff are exposed to the same risks without the benefit of the supports afforded to law enforcement staff. Dr. Davis also shared that CSH staff are paid \$11.00 per hour while nursing staff are paid \$23.00 per hour. Dr. Davis also questioned the quality of FMHT staff he is able to attract at this current rate of pay.

Dr. Davis shared that the Secretary of Health and Human Services visited the campus recently and ordered the elimination of mandatory overtime. This order will become effective later this month. Dr. Davis explained that The implementation of this order will present major problems due to the number of staff needed for monitoring patients who are on 1:1 status.

Dr. Davis also stated that he is still waiting for an official decision concerning the implementation of the smoking ban.

**VIII. Adjournment: 10:19 am**

**Next Meeting Dates: February 2, 2007**