

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

**Central State Hospital  
26317 W. Washington Street  
Building 113, Main Conference Room  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803  
February 9, 2007  
8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

Chana Ramsey, Chair; Violet Hite, Vice- Chair; Isabel Vartanian, Member; Cleveland Rodgers, Member; and 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; Jim Bell, CSH Forensic Director; Colonel James Lowery, CSH Forensic Unit Security Director; Joyce Grecco, CSH Assistant Director of Nursing; Diane Crawford, CSH Infection Control Nurse; Dr. Sheneman, CSH Psychiatrist; James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Advocate/Office of Human Rights; and Rose Mitchell, Executive Secretary/Office of Human Rights.

**Absent:**

Linda Masri, Member

**I. Call to Order: 8:35 am**

**II. Minutes of January 2, 2007, Meeting**

The minutes were approved without comment

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. New Business**

A. Monthly Variance Report for January 2007 – Presented by  
Jim Bell

Mr. Bell reported that there were no reportable incidents involving the four approved forensic variances during the month of January 2007.

**Action: The Committee approved a motion to accept Mr. Bell'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: December 2006**  
**Formal Human Rights Complaints – January 2007**  
**Spit Guard Usage – January 2007**

**(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: December 2006 – Presented by  
Jennifer Barker

**A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept Ms. Barker's Report. The Committee also requested to review case 06-0080 at the March 2007 meeting prior to constructing a written follow-up response to the Commissioner. The Committee will plan to further discuss this case in executive session at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**

C. Formal Human Rights Complaints – January 2007 – Presented  
by Jennifer Barker

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

D. Spit Mask Usage – January 2007 – Presented by Michael  
Curseen

Mr. Curseen stated that there were numerous reported usages of the spit masks during the month of January and all events were initiated by one patient. With the exception of one incident that exceeded the four hour usage without doctor's order, all reported usages of the spit mask were conducted and documented appropriately. Daniel Sheneman, M. D., treatment team psychiatrist for the patient in question, provided a history of

the patient and described attempts taken to address the patient's spitting behavior. Diane Crawford, R. N., provided additional clarification concerning the spit mask reporting and monitoring procedures and addressed the spit mask's effectiveness as an infection control device.

**The Committee approved a motion to accept Mr. Curseen's report. The Committee also requested that Dr. Sheneman provide additional follow-up concerning efforts made to reduce the spit mask usage for the patient in question at the April LHRC meeting.**

E. LHRC Review: Step Program Manual (Revisions) for Civil and Forensic Patients – Jennifer Barker, Patient Rights Coordination

Mr. Curseen advised the Committee that he had reviewed and recommended a few revisions to the Step Program Manual that have been incorporated into the revised Step Manual Program.

Ms. Barker stated that the point system is a way of rewarding patients for complying with scheduled treatment activities. Points earned are used to purchase items in the canteen. The point system also provides a means for the treatment team and the Step Team to determine when a patient begins to display problems with their behavior or treatment goals.. Ms. Barker stated that input from staff and patients was solicited and incorporated in the revisions to the Step Manual. Ms. Barker explained that points for areas in which a patient is experiencing difficulty are weighted with a higher value as a means of encouraging greater participation in the problem area..

The Chair requested that the hospital provide the Committee with a brief \ history of the hospitalizations and medications at CSH for the purpose of comparing how the system has changed and evolved into what it is today. Dr. Davis agreed to provide a presentation on the history of hospitalization at CSH and will plan to use presenters and/or video presentations.

**A motion was made and passed to approve the revised Step Manual and to request that a presentation of the history of hospitalizations and medications at CSH be presented at the April LHRC meeting.**

V. Follow-up Business

1. LHRC Follow-up Request to Review Photographs of Contraband Items Obtained During Forensic Search Procedures – Presented by James Lowery, Forensic Unit Security Director

Col. Lowery passed photographs of contraband items that were either found during a pat down or a room search, or that had been sent via regular mail. He also displayed a wire that had been removed from a hand held electronic device that a patient used to attempt suicide by inserting it

into an electrical outlet. Col. Lowery further stated that packages have to be search for contraband, drugs and other dangerous items. Drugs and other dangerous items are turned over to the police department. According to Col. Lowery, patients returning from medical appointments are checked for contraband items and items such as razor blades, broken tweezers, etc. have been found on the patients. Col. Lowery stated that there are a total of 126 employees in the Forensic Security Unit and explained to Committee members that security staff are required to accompany all NGRI patients on any movement from the building, such as medical appointments, courts, etc.

**A motion was made and approved to accept Col. Lowery's report**

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 4-point restraint on Ms. Grecco in order to demonstrate to the Committee a patient's range of movement while in restraints. Ms. Grecco also demonstrated a patient's range of movement while wearing the restraints, and explained that a patient is required to be assigned 1:1 with staff while in 4-point restraints.

**A motion was made and approved to accept Ms. Barker's and Ms. Grecco's demonstration.**

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 stated that the request was made to the SHRC to have this item deferred until their March 9, 2007 meeting, so that the Chair of CSH LHRC could attend. This request was approved by the SHRC. Mr. Curseen stated that the item was suppose to be listed on the SHRC agenda as a request for guidance and recommendations and not as an appeal. Mr. Curseen encouraged all member who are available to attend the next SHRC meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion was made and approved to accept Mr. Curseen's report. Directions to the SHRC meeting have been sent to all Committee members.**

4. LHRC Request for an Update Regarding the Implementation of the Hospital's Satisfaction Survey RE: Inadequate Housekeeping Service Provided in the Forensic Units – Presented by Ms. Jennifer Barker

Ms. Barker stated that the percentage of patients who participated in the survey was low and that the current participation rating is down from the initial survey. However, the results of this survey will be sent to SVTC. Ms. Barker suggested using an incentive to encourage client participation. It was suggested, with Dr. Davis' approval, that a pizza party be given for every ward that exceed a certain pre-determined percentage of participation,.

**A motion was made and approved to accept Ms. Barker's report. The Committee also requested that another report be made to the Committee at the May 4, 2007 LHRC Meeting.**

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

Dr. Davis reported that a two day Recovery Workshop was held and that 5 staff and 5 patients from CSH attended. Everyone enjoyed it and got a lot out of the workshop.

Dr. Davis stated that within 4 to 8 weeks, Fred Fried would address the issues concerning recovery functions in community and hospital settings as well as increasing communication between CSB's and patients.

Dr. Davis stated the staff are making real progress in the reduction of bed restraints. In 2006, the number of bed restraints have decreased dramatically.

## **VIII. Adjournment: 11:40 am**

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