

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS LHRC
Virtual Meeting
DATE (03/09/2021) & TIME (12:00 PM)
APPROVED MINUTES

LIST MEMBERS PRESENT: Gardner Umbarger, Chairperson; Michelle DeBord, LCSW; Nancy Munsey

LIST MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Bartnik, Secretary; Suzanne Eller; Deidra Mathena

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Oakes, Human Rights Advocate; Mykala Sauls, Human Rights Advocate; Matt Woodlee, LMFT; David Boehm, State Human Rights Committee Member

CALL TO ORDER

Gardner Umbarger (Chair) called meeting to order at 12:15p. Those in attendance make introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda, submitted by Heather Oakes, was motioned to be approved at 12:17p by Nancy Munsey, seconded by Michelle DeBord; there were no corrections and the agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The January 22, 2021 minutes were motioned at 12:19p to be approved by Michelle DeBord, seconded by Nancy Munsey and were approved.

ADVOCATE ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

- The Office of Human Rights conducted a statewide training on investigating abuse and neglect for community providers on March 4th. There were 380 individuals in attendance.

SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

- Facility updates provided by Matt Woodlee
- Updates regarding COVID-19 procedures at facility; there are currently no staff or patients positive for COVID-19. Over 65% of staff have received both doses of the vaccination
- They have begun admitting in regular rotation allow patients to be on the ward with their assigned treatment team and they hope to have in person recommitments hearings by the end of the month. All of this helps with continuity of care for the patients.
- SWVMHI is currently housing 25 diversions from other hospitals and have reached their capacity. There are hopes to discharge patients in the coming days to allow for more beds but soon they will begin diverting as well.

CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION - Upon a motion made by Gardner Umbarger at 12:22, seconded by Michelle DeBord, the LHRC committee entered 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.

- Review of Restrictions – Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (Sections 50 and 100)
 - o Upon return to open session, these restrictions were unanimously accepted as presented with recommendations to improve wording on restriction forms.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Upon reconvening in open session at 12:40p based on a motion from Nancy Munsey, seconded by Michelle DeBord, the 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.

NEXT MEETING – May 11th, 2021 at 12:00p which will be a virtual meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50p.

These minutes were transcribed by Mykala Sauls, Human Rights Advocate.