

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

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John Shepherd, Vice-Chairperson
Charlottesville
Betty Crance
Fincastle
Renee F. Valdez
Alexandria
Christopher Olivo
Yorktown
Bruce Ellsworth
Crozet
Kimberly Hunt
Roanoke



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental

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NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

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State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025

9:00AM

Hiram Davis Medical Center (HDMC)

23617 W. Washington St. Unit 110

1st Floor Conference Rm

Petersburg, VA 23803

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/60308807-dd95-4c0a-90a1-9a80ec380a5d@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 286 211 740 275

Passcode: qQ2wU2zB

Convene

9:00 a.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, **Chair**; John Shepherd, **Vice Chair**, Christopher Olivo, Renee Valdez, Betty Crance, Kimberly Hunt, Bruce Ellsworth

SHRC Members

Attending

Virtually

SHRC Members

Absent

Staff Present

Physically

Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, OHR
Lequetta Hayes, Human Rights Advocate, Region 1
Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Brandi Justice, Facility Director, Central State Hospital (CSH), DBHDS
Susan Alabanza, Chief Clinical Officer, HDMC, DBHDS
Jarvis Griffin, Facility Director, CEO, HDMC, DBHDS
Jill Stiles, Chief Operating Officer, CSH, DBDHDS

Staff Attending Virtually Nelson Smith, Commissioner, DBHDS
Tony Davis, Human Rights Advocate, OHR
Riley Curran, Human Rights Advocate, OHR
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR
Josie Mace, Director of Legislative Affairs, DBHDS
Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Right Manager, Facility Operations, OHR
Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Provider Management, DBHDS
Mary Broz Vaughn, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs, State Board Liaison, DBHDS

Others Attending in Person Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC
Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG)
Josephine Sagini, RN, Program Manager, Humane Care Residential Homes
Michelle Joseph, RN, Private Duty Nurse, Humane Care Residential Homes

Others Attending Virtually

Call to Order At 9:02, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the April 10, 2025, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda At 9:05, the committee considered the agenda. Will Childers informed the committee of a change at 11:15 where the Director of Central State Hospital will give the committee an update on the status of the new facility. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Renee Valdez 2nd. The agenda was approved as final with the aforementioned changes, unanimously.

Review of Draft Minutes At 9:04, the committee considered the draft minutes from the March 6, 2025, meeting. Regarding the "Other" section, John Shepherd mentioned a typo to change "help" to "held." Along with asking if the appeals findings could potentially be more detailed within the minutes. Taneika Goldman stated she would communicate with Karen Taylor on the best way to achieve the request. Renee Valdez motioned for approval. John Shepherd 2nd. The draft minutes were approved as final with the aforementioned changes, unanimously.

Welcome and Overview: At 9:06, Jarvis Griffin and Susan Alabanza welcomed the committee to the Hiram Davis Medical Center. Susan Alabanza gave the committee a brief overview of HDMC. HDMC operates on three levels of care, skilled, nursing facilitated care and general medical, which is a higher level of care. HDMC has two certifications to operate, as a nursing home and a hospital. They offer outpatient services: laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, dental and some clinical programs. Inpatient care is offered to anyone in the DBHDS facilities or someone in the community with a disability. There's no restrictions on the length of time a patient can receive care. HDMC medical team also offers

additional care upon discharge. The staff pride themselves on the individual care and skills they give to every patient.

**Public
Comment:**

At 9:30, Will Childers announced the public comment period. There was no public comment

**Western State
Hospital (WSH)
Variance Update:**

At 9:30, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of the annual update provided by WSH related to previously approved variances to 12VAC35-115-105(H) and 12VAC35-115-110(C)(3). She gave the new members insight of what a variance is, the provider's process for deciding whether they need a variance, how the LHRC reviews and gives recommendation regarding the variance and the authority of the SHRC to disapprove, modify or approve variance requests.

**LHRC Liaison
Reporting:**

At 9:36, John Shepherd informed the committee that he recently attended the Rappahannock-Rapidan LHRC meeting in Culpepper. Betty Crance did the orientation for the new LHRC members on March 12, 2025.

Tour Debrief:

At 9:42, the committee discussed the tour at Poplar Springs. Christopher Olivo appreciated the CEO, Michael Triggs honesty regarding delays in patient discharges related to . Betty Crance spoke about the Human Rights poster on the units and how it was great to see an actual image of the Poplar Springs staff person on the poster. She also commended them for transitioning their all-female residential facility to serving one person per room, which in turn has helped to minimize incidents. It was also noted that the Educational Director spoke about variances, and it was appreciated that he knew specific details about the process. The environment was comfortable, great lighting, made the facility feel more welcoming. Overall, the committee felt the tour was beneficial and showed great appreciation to the staff.

Other:

At 9:51, Will Childers gave a brief summary of his experience attending the DBHDS State Board meeting in Staunton on April 2nd, accompanied by Tanieka Goldman. Taneika Goldman provided a more detailed overview of what the State Board does to the new members.

BREAK

At 9:54, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Subcommittees:

At 10:08, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

**SHRC Appeals
Procedures
Workgroup**

The SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup had nothing to report.

Policy Subcommittees	Taneika Goldman spoke about a potential policy structured around the use of behavior treatment plans that do and do not require the use restrictions. This was a recommendation made by the SHRC following a recent appeal involving the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA). The subcommittee may receive more information soon.
Officer Subcommittee	The Officer Subcommittee had nothing to report.
Membership Subcommittee	Will Childers stated the committee is still looking into the process of bringing two additional members onboard. Taneika Goldman spoke about her gestures of reaching potential individuals to join the committee. Betty Crance stated she knows a potential individual and will pass their contact information to Taneika Goldman.
Virtual Meet & Greet:	At 10:14, A call for introductions were made prior to the committee receiving comments from Commissioner Nelson. He started by thanking the committee for their volunteered services. He spoke about the growth of DBHDS. He stated that he sat down with every department head and got insight on how they operate along with what they do specifically. Commissioner Nelson's goal has been to break down the barriers within DBHDS and have every department work together. He challenged the committee to get to the root of why things are happening. He showed the committee updated pictures of the new Central State Hospital building.
Overview: Regulatory Revision Process	At 10:34, Mary Broz Vaughn presented the committee with information regarding the Regulatory Revision Process. She gave a high- level review of the difference between the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) and Fast Track processes (one stage v three). Mary also acknowledged that the State Board voted to authorize a NOIRA for the draft Human Rights Regulations primarily due to the volume of feedback received during the public comment forum. She gave examples of feedback where providers were unclear about current requirements and the revisions made to align the regulations with the Health Care Decisions Act. Karen Taylor explained the difference between the process outlined in the human rights regulations and the process outlined in the Healthcare Decisions Act for appointing a substitute decision-maker.
General Assembly Session Update:	At 11:17, Josie Mace presented an overview of the 2025 General Assembly Session. She spoke about veto sessions; legislation work groups and legislation impacting DBHDS and its stakeholders. A few of the bills she went over included: SB 838 (Van Valkenburg), HB 1760 (Gardner), SB 819 (Favola) and HB 1937 (Hope).
HDMC Closure Update & Facility Tour:	At 11:24, Brandi Justice and Jill Stiles of CSH came to speak on the new Central State Hospital building which is on track for the Jan 2027 opening. maximum security is under roof, and they are starting the work on the civil side. The inside has also started to take form and to show the flow of the hospital. The next steps are furniture shopping, and Renee suggested that they solicit

and consider patient input. Jill Stiles stated her most exciting moment thus far are the speakers that will be installed in the patient rooms. The new hospital will have active spaces for patients as well. There will be a team to work through transitional plans to assist staff upon opening.

At 11:35, the committee took a break and tour of HDMC.

**Provider
Roundtable:**

At 12:35, the SHRC held a Regional Community Provider Roundtable session with representatives of Humane Care Residential Homes. Taneika Goldman facilitated the segway for the provider in attendance to share about themselves and their organization, specifically about the services they offer, one initiative they are most proud of and if applicable, a challenge they believe the SHRC may be aware of and/or can assist with. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

**Overview: SHRC
Role in Appeal
Process**

At 1:32, Karen Taylor gave the committee an overview of their role in the appeal process. Karen outlined how the committee is expected to review the LHRC findings to decide whether the facts considered by the LHRC establish a violation, and whether the LHRC's recommendation(s) or the provider's action plan adequately address the complaint. Karen emphasized that the SHRC does not punish but makes recommendations, and she referenced the structure of court system to explain the relationship between the LHRC and SHRC. Taneika Goldman detailed the steps of the complaint resolution process, from beginning to end, for the new committee members.

Adjournment

At 2:11, the April 10, 2025, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
May 22, 2025
Region 1-Lexington