

## **WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL AREA LHRC**

Approved Minutes

May 21, 2025

9:00AM

Eastern State Hospital: 4601 Ironbound Road Williamsburg, VA 23188-2652

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Melissa South – Chairperson

Dick Roberts - Member

### **Members Absent**

None

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Lashanique Green – Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS Office of Human Rights

Mykala Sauls – Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS Office of Human Rights

Jennifer Young-Cott – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Eastern State Hospital

Rachel Cornett, Social Worker, Eastern State Hospital

Quamane Gonzales, Individual, Eastern State Hospital

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Melissa South called meeting to order at 9:10AM

### **ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE**

Those in attendance made introductions. Chair welcomes attendees.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Melissa South motioned for the agenda to be approved, and Dick Roberts seconded the motion.

The agenda items, Review of UDS Policy and AR Objection for MZ were deleted from the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved by all committee members present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Melissa South motioned for the minutes to be approved, and Dick Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by all committee members present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

### **CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Chair.

### **ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING**

Lashanique Green provided the attached Advocate Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

ESH: Appointment of AR/Capacity Evaluation Review – 9:25 AM

The review of Appointment of AR, any decision that was made or has already been made by AR, and the Capacity Evaluation was motioned to be approved after returning to open session by Melissa South and seconded by Dick Roberts and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion made by Melissa South and seconded by Dick Roberts the 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 objections to Appointment of AR and Capacity Evaluation.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon reconvening in open session, each member certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, were considered in the closed session namely, to review ESH's objections to the Appointment of AR and Capacity Evaluation. Mykala Sauls provided training to committee members upon reconvening in open session namely to include, information related to procedures and expectations at LHRC Hearings.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Melissa South adjourned the meeting at 10:15AM.

The next meeting will be July 2nd at Eastern State Hospital.

## **Advocate Report, State Facilities**

### **Quarterly ANE and complaint statistics**

For the calendar quarter ending 12/31/2025:

Facility	Abuse Cases*	Complaint Cases*
WSH	14 (3)	10
CCCA	7 (4)	3
NVMHI	14 (1)	9
SWVMHI	8 (1)	12 (1)
Catawba	18 (7)	3
SVMHI	10 (5)	8 (1)
CSH	31 (2)	10
HDMC	1 (1)	2
PGH	2 (1)	36 (19)
VCBR	9	57 (24)
ESH	21 (6)	78
SEVTC	2 (1)	0

\*Cases in parentheses are substantiated.

*Similar community information may be located by reviewing minutes from Local Human Rights Committees in your area via the Commonwealth Calendar:*

*<https://commonwealthcalendar.virginia.gov/>*

### **Summary of current Variances for Facilities**

- Central State Hospital has four variances all of which expire in 2025. There are no new variances pending.
- Western State Hospital has one variance which expires in 2027. There are no new variances currently pending.
- Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation has one variance which was renewed last month and expires in 2027. There are no new variances pending.

### **DBHDS Updates**

- Please note that the OHR web page is the greatest resource to access to identify the most appropriate OHR team member(s) you need to contact. The OHR Regional Contact Map, along with the Human Rights Staff Contacts list can be accessed in the Contact Information section of the OHR web page.

## **Trainings for State-Operated Facility Staff**

- New training for facilities is currently being developed, including and revised and expanded training for Facility Investigators. More information to come soon!

## **SHRC Meetings**

Next meeting: March 6, 2025

The SHRC is required to meet at least 8 times a year. Unless special circumstances apply, administrative sessions normally convene at 8:30AM. Regular sessions normally convene at 9:00AM and run until all agenda items are addressed. Portions of meetings are held in closed session. Appeals are normally scheduled for late morning. Feel free to join any meeting to observe the open portions. Contact [brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov) to advise him you will be joining as an LHRC member observing the open meeting. You can join in-person or virtually. For a full schedule, please visit our website.

## **LHRC Trainings**

New LHRC members will receive notice in their appointment letters regarding attending Orientation and viewing the other training materials (Overview HRR, LHRC Forms, Fact Finding Hearings, FOIA) sessions.

If you are a new member and have not received Orientation, please notify

[brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov).

Individual trainings at LHRC meetings will be conducted by OHR throughout the year.

## **LHRC Recruitment**

We are currently recruiting for Local Human Rights Committees assigned to the Facility Operations Team with a priority focus on **individual** members:

Staunton Area LHRC – Meets quarterly in Staunton at Western State Hospital.

Tri-City LHRC – Meets quarterly in Petersburg at Central State Hospital.

Williamsburg Regional LHRC – Meets quarterly in Williamsburg at Eastern State Hospital.

**Please contact Brandon Charles, MSW, Facility Operations Manager at**

**[brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:brandon.charles@dbhds.virginia.gov) for more information or an application.**