

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Will Childers, Chairperson
Hardy
John Shepherd, Vice-Chairperson
Charlottesville
Betty Crance
Fincastle
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Alexandria



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services*

*Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797*

NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2024

DBHDS

Central Office

1220 Bank St.

13th Floor Conference Rm

Richmond, VA 22319

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3b1bcd21-41ac-40c4-bf47-541b688c1a5f@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 256 320 646 001

Passcode: 8DL9qR2o

Convene

9:00 a.m.

Taneika Goldman
State Human Rights Director
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Richmond, VA 23219

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SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, **Chair**; John Shepherd, **Vice Chair**, Christopher Olivo, Renee Valdez

**SHRC Members
Attending
Virtually**

SHRC Members Absent Betty Crance

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Facility Operations, OHR
Amaya Henderson, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Suzanne Mayo, DSW, LCSW, Assistant Commissioner, Facility Services, DBHDS
Heather Rupe, MA Director of Patient Transition Services, DBHDS
Braden Curtis, Chief Deputy Commissioner, DBHDS

Staff Attending Virtually	Jennifer Kovack, Associate Director for Community Operations, OHR Tony Davis, Human Rights Advocate, Facilities, OHR Riley Curran, Human Rights Advocate, Facilities, OHR Brandon Charles, Facility Operations Manager, OHR Cassie Purtlebaugh, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 1 Jonathan C. Anderson, M.D., Facility Director, Western State Hospital (WSH) Patrick Robertson, Risk Manager, WSH Chuck Swanson, Medical Director, WSH
Others Attending in Person	Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the SHRC Brandi Justice, Facility Director, Central State Hospital Michelle C. Whittingham, M. Ed, PBSF, Chief Executive Officer, One Diversity Kimberly Ackerman (Miller) - QA Director, One Diversity Josie Williams - Risk Manager, One Diversity Monica Lucas, Member of the Public Jennifer Spangler, Member of the Public Heidi Campbell, Member of the Public
Others Attending Virtually	Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance, Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) Inga Schroeder, Member of the Public Carol Driskill, Advocate, disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)
Call to Order	At 9:04, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the December 12, 2024, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions were made.
Approval of Agenda	At 9:06, the committee considered the agenda. Will Childers informed the committee that Braden Curtis' scheduled presentation would be pushed up to an earlier time. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Renee Valdez 2 nd . The draft agenda was approved as final with the aforementioned change, unanimously.
Review of Draft Minutes	At 9:08, the committee considered the draft minutes from the October 31, 2024, meeting. John Shepherd informed the committee that Alonzo Riggins' name appeared twice regarding attendance, the wording in the Workplan section should be updated to "He suggested that the addition of an executive summary be considered, and he recommended that the basis of the LHRC's findings be clearly stated." Christopher Olivo informed the committee of a typo to his last name under the Appeal section. Christopher Olivo motioned for approval. Renee Valdez 2 nd . The draft minutes were approved as final with the aforementioned changes, unanimously.

Taneika Goldman gave a quick segway into the Welcome and Overview. She informed the committee that when meetings occur in the community, typically the hosting provider will facilitate the Welcome and Overview. Since the meeting is held at Central Office and because Central State Hospital facilitated a Townhall yesterday, it made sense to have Central State Hospital do the Welcome and Overview today.

Welcome and Overview:

At 9:14, Brandi Justice, Facility Director, at Central State Hospital (CSH) thanked the committee for inviting her. She spoke about the history of CSH and its origin as the Freedman's Bureau established to care for formerly enslaved people. In 1885, when the cite first opened, they had 373 patients. Currently operations include a civil program with 166 beds and a maximum security program with 111 beds. Dr. Justice shared photo renderings of the future hospital building planned to open around January 2027.

Public Comment:

At 9:28, Will Childers announced the public comment period. Heidi Campbell gave a public comment regarding overall systems and response to self-advocates. Jennifer Spangler gave a public comment regarding the JLARC Report and referenced OSIG presentation to the SHRC in December. Taneika Goldman also read two public comments sent via email to the SHRC.

Townhall Debrief:

At 9:40, the SHRC discussed how the Townhall style meeting with patients in the civil and maximum security buildings went at Central State Hospital on December 11, 2024. Will Childers asked about the restriction of outside privileges for the patients. Dr. Justice explained the discovery of a blind spot near the fencing in the courtyard and that CSH has implemented the protocol of having two staff near the blind spots and another near fencing to monitor. The committee referenced the complaints given by the patients during the Townhall and especially how the patients worked together to make sure everyone had their thoughts and concerns heard.

Notifications:

At 9:22, Taneika Goldman informed the committee about staff updates with OHR. She spoke about a Quality Improvement Initiative with the Region 2 Regional Quality Council regarding development of a "Dignity of Risk" training. OHR will also be facilitating a Lunch & Learn for DBHDS staff and sending a copy of the training to the committee. She also notified the committee that Youth for Tomorrow submitted a variance to the Human Rights Regulations that has been reviewed by the LHRC in October and posted to the registrar. The public comment period for this variance will run from December 15th through January 16th. The committee is expected to review and make a decision about this variance request at the January 2025 meeting.

DBHDS Facility Services Division:

At 10:03, Heather Rupe and Suzanne Mayo provided an overview of data regarding the status and solutions of the Extraordinary Barriers List at the DBHDS facility level. DBHDS is looking weekly into the extraordinary barriers vs process barriers to discharge for patients in DBHDS facilities. The determination of who have been "Ready for Discharge" for at least 7 days is made based on the patient's treatment plan. There's been implementation of two pilot projects at four hospitals to address the process barriers to discharge planning.

BREAK

At 10:42, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Western State
Hospital**

At 11:03, Taneika Goldman referenced the regulatory requirement for review of provider policies that impact an individuals' human rights prior to the committee's review of Western State Hospital (WSH) updated Hospital Instruction Number 4000. Dr. Jonathan Anderson, Patrick Robertson, and Chuck Swanson presented the committee with information about the continuation of concerns of safety as the reason for the updates. They reviewed changes one by one to the committee regarding contraband and drugs being brought into the facility by outside personnel. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

BREAK

At 11:56, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Provider
Roundtable:**

At 12:11, the SHRC held a Regional Community Provider Roundtable session with representatives of One Diversity. Taneika Goldman facilitated the segway for the providers in attendance to share about themselves and their organizations, 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.

**Overview:
DBHDS
Initiatives**

At 12:40, Braden Curtis gave an overview of Virginia's Behavioral Health and Development Disability Services Delivery System. He spoke about Right Help, Right Now and 988 Call Centers implementation. He gave insight to the focus areas to enhance STEP-VA qualities, accountability, data, funding and workforce alongside of DD Waiver Services, Settlement Agreement and the start-up of Hiram Davis Medical Center closure process.

**SHRC Calendar
Review:**

At 1:11, the committee finalized the meeting schedule for 2025. Renee Valdez made a motion to accept the SHRC meeting calendar dates and locations for calendar year 2025. John Shepherd 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

VBCR Report:

At 1:20, Brandon Charles presented the advocate's report on human rights complaints and restraint for Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation for the months of September and October 2024.

Subcommittees: At 1:27, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

**SHRC Appeals
Procedures
Workgroup**

Jennifer Kovack gave a brief update regarding the special workgroup established to address SHRC appeal procedures. She informed the committee that schedules have not permitted a meeting yet, but the OHR has proposed an application and process document to IT to assist with this process.

The goal is to set up two meetings with the SHRC members and OHR staff to hear recommendations to update the cover letter and the packet structure of the appeal packet.

**Policy
Subcommittees**

The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.

**Officer
Subcommittee**

The Officer Subcommittee had nothing to report.

**Membership
Subcommittee**

Will Childers led discussion about the continued need of seeking additional members of the SHRC. There's a potential candidate to be interviewed at the January meeting. Monica Lucas, a previous SHRC member, expressed interest about re-applying. Taneika Goldman planned to connect Will Childers with Jennifer Spangler, a very effective self-advocate. She may have potential recommendations for the SHRC.

At 1:35, the committee reverted to the WSH policy review to finalize recommendations towards the policy. Taneika Goldman will draft a response for the committee to review and once confirmed, she will forward the response to WSH.

Other

At 1:58, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of the next meeting being at Central Office. Will Childers created a motivational small book to give to the committee and OHR staff.

Adjournment

At 2:06, the December 12, 2024, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
January 16, 2025
Central Office