## LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2008 McKim Hall, Room 1116 University of Virginia Health System 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Members: Elizabeth Bruns – Chair Hunter Croson – Vice Chair

Jenny Oliver – Secretary Lester Pearlstein

UVA Representatives: **Penny Horner Lynne Fleming – Legal Counsel** Pamela Cipriano, Ex-Officio

Susan Hess Walter Mason Bankole Johnson Rebecca Lewis

Regional Advocate: Chuck Collins

Guests: Ken Moore, Kim Goodman, Anita Thompson Heisterman, Susan Sybrandt

Names in Bold represent those present

		Action/
Topic	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations
Meeting called to order	Dr. Bruns called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.	
Meeting Minutes	The Minutes of the February 1, 2008 meeting were approved.	
Public Comment	There was no public comment.	
Reports	Regional Advocate's Report: Chuck Collins	Mr. Collins will
	Mr. Collins reported that the UVA policies and procedures that were revised to comply with the new Human Rights regulations were accepted.  Prior to the March 1 deadline for implementing policies and procedures to comply with the new Human Rights Regulations, Mr. Collins met with faculty and staff 4 times for training sessions. His efforts were appreciated and Ms Hess thanked him on behalf of Psychiatry Services. Mr. Collins' offer to make similar presentations next year was gratefully accepted.  Mr. Collins was asked about his focus on training. He explained that his purpose was to highlight portions of the new regulations and emphasize informed consent and person-centered treatment. The scope of complaints was narrowed from any expression of dissatisfaction to dissatisfaction related to Human Rights.	advise the group on newly proposed licensing regulations.

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Mr. Collins reported that the 2008 Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation that changed the standard for issuing orders for emergency custody, temporary detention, involuntary commitment and mandatory outpatient treatment. These changes will become effective on July 1, 2008. The legislation replaces the current standard of "imminent danger" with "substantial likelihood:" of harm to self or others. LHRC members agreed that this lowered standard may result in a need for more beds. Mr. Collins noted that additional funding for inpatient beds was not authorized by the General Assembly. If no beds are available in the community, placement is sought anywhere in the Commonwealth where there is an available bed even though such placement may be far away from the patient's home. Western State is the placement of last resort; its bed capacity is 260.

The Wellness Center has 9 beds to serve Region 1. They try to keep people out of the hospital and close to their support network. The funding authorized by the new legislation will not directly benefit the Wellness Center.

Ms Fleming asked about the involvement of the LHRC when an authorized representative is to be designated. The law permits a friend or partner to be an AR, but the LHRC must meet and interview the candidate. In some cases, there may not be time to convene a quorum (3 members), in which case a special justice order would be required. Ms Fleming and Mr. Collins agreed to discuss this subject further.

Ms Croson was interested in the human rights training provided to new hires. Mr. Mason explained the Computer-Based Learning module on human rights that is required of new employees and to be completed yearly by staff.

The newly printed Human Rights Regulation books are available.

## **Update:** Research Project – Lighting the Way to Better Sleep: The Effects of Red Filter Flashlights on Sleep on a Psychiatric Service

Ms Goodman and Ms Heisterman reported that the project, the goal of which is to improve the quality of patient's sleep, was approved by the Internal Review Board and began in March on 5 East. Data are being collected: A six-part questionnaire is used to gather information from the patient; the information is matched to nursing documentation.

Ms Goodman reported on the Medical Center's efforts to decrease noise in the hospital.

Ms Goodman and Ms Heisterman will present outcomes at the July meeting.

The LHRC will have to approve the use of the proposed

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	Ms Goodman also reported on a group that discusses the roles of unit staff and explains to patients that real-time help is available for environmental issues.  Restraint Chair  Ms Sybrandt told the group that 5 East is considering a six-month trial of a restraint chair on 5 East.  She explained that the FDA has not approved the device, but 400 hospitals are using the restraint chair, according to the manufacturer. Western State Hospital is currently using this restraint chair.  Ms Sybrandt described the chair and discussed some of the advantages: it is safer for patients with COPD, sleep apnea, intoxication or pregnancy because the patient is not supine; the chair is comfortable; it may lessen the time a person is in restraints; the chair can be brought to the person; it could prevent injury to staff.  Mr. Collins provided negative information on the device and asked that additional information be carefully examined. He will look at the chair in use at Western State.	Restraint Chair. Additional information will presented at the July meeting.
	Manager's Reports Complaints and Restraint Log:  Ms. Hess reported there were no restraints or episodes of seclusion on the Rucker unit during the first quarter. Mr. Mason gave a report on use of seclusion on 5 East. Mr. Mason and Ms. Hess also provided information about informal patient complaints on those units.  Mr. Collins reported that UVA has done everything required concerning patient complaints.	
New Business	Dr. Bruns introduced Mr. Moore, candidate for member of the LHRC. Mr. Moore discussed his interest in human rights. Members asked him several questions.  Mr. Collins will write a letter in support of Mr. Moore's application.  The group is looking forward to Mr. Moore joining them.	
Meeting Adjournment	Dr. Bruns adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.	
Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held on July 18 at 12:00.	