

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

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Betty Crance
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Renee F. Valdez
Alexandria
Christopher Olivo
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Roanoke



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services

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NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

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State Human Rights Committee Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2025

9:00AM

Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI)

340 Bagley Circle

Dogwood Rm.

Marion, VA 24354

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/29ae9a80-296c-494b-9602-bd0885b08844@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 245 598 772 627 8

Passcode: LZ9kb3pP

Convene

9:00 a.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, **Chair**; John Shepherd, **Vice Chair**, Betty Crance, Kimberly Hunt

SHRC Members Attending Virtually Christopher Olivo, Renee Valdez, Bruce Ellsworth

SHRC Members Absent

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, OHR
Mykala Sauls, Human Rights Advocate, Facility, OHR
Cynthia McClaskey, Chief Executive Officer, SWVMHI, DBHDS
Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Right Manager, Facility Operations, OHR

Staff Attending Virtually Alonzo Riggins, Training & Development Coordinator, OHR
Bryan Columbus, Assistant Admin to Operations, OHR
Diana Atcha, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 2
Mandy Crowder, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 3
Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Provider Management, DBHDS
Tony Davis, Human Rights Advocate, OHR
Jennifer Kovack, Assoc Director, Community Operations, OHR
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR
Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 4
Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4

Others Attending in Person Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the Inspector General (OSIG)

Others Attending Virtually Jonathan Sumrell, Attorney, Hancock, Daniel & Johnson, P.C., Dominion Hospital
Shannon Kassim, Risk Manager, Dominion Hospital
Terrelle Stewart, Executive Director, District 19 Community Services Board, now DBA Greater Reach Community Services Board (CSB)
Shannon Mines Bland, Forensic and Liaison Manager, CSB
Jennifer Immekus, Quality Improvement Supervisor, CSB
Elisha Jones (shown as Jennifer Baker, DBHDS)
Dee Moore, Member of the Public
Nicole Durose, Disability Rights Advocate, disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)
Paloma Rodriguez, Intern, dLCV
Virginia Pharis, Institutions and Incident Review Manager, dLCV

Call to Order At 9:01, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the June 26, 2025, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.

Approval of Agenda At 9:03, the committee considered the agenda. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Betty Crance 2nd. The agenda were approved, unanimously.

Review of Draft Minutes At 9:05, the committee considered the draft minutes from the May 22, 2025, meeting. John Shepherd stated a typo "fiscal" within the "Community Operations Update: section. Betty Crance motioned for approval. John Shepherd 2nd. The draft minutes was approved as final with the aforementioned changes, unanimously.

Welcome and Overview: At 9:07, Cynthia McClaskey, Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI) welcomed and thanked the committee for allowing SWVMHI to host the meeting. Cynthia McClaskey mentioned the array of supports for patients and the history of the relationship between SWVMHI and the community. She also mentioned the start of new

renovations happening within the facility, to include replacing the HVAC system that would benefit all parts of SWVMHI.

Public Comment: At 9:27, Will Childers announced the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Townhall Debrief: At 9:28, the committee discussed how the townhall with patients went on June 25, 2025, at SWVMHI. Everyone was impressed by and emphasized the positive things the patients had to say about the facility and staff. The committee showed great appreciation for the overall organization and townhall setup.

Notice of Request for Variances: At 9:37, Taneika Goldman notified the committee of a request for variances submitted by Central State Hospital (CSH) related to 12VAC35-115-50(C)(6)(a)(7)(a), 12VAC35-115-100(A)(1)(c), 12VAC35-115-20(A)(2) and 12VAC35-115-150. The LHRC is recommending the SHRC approve the variances as submitted. A public comment forum will open on will be open 7/15/25 – 8/14/25. The SHRC may review the request and make a determination at their next scheduled meeting in August.

Annual Seclusion & Restraint Summary: At 9:40, Alonzo Riggins gave a brief summary of the 2024 Annual Seclusion and Restraint Data. He broke down the data for unique instances, and cumulative minutes, and provided the service response count along with other observations about the different types of restraints: physical, mechanical and pharmacological.

BREAK At 10:15, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Presentation: At 10:25, Teresa Smith gave a presentation overview of how OSIG operates the Healthcare Compliance Unit and the connection with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

Other At 10:52, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of a timeframe extension request made by Q.G., an individual receiving services from Eastern State Hospital. Taneika Goldman outlined the relevant Human Rights Regulations and explained that even though the decision would be noted in the meeting minutes, the Human Rights Advocate would inform Q.G. and the provider of the decision directly. Betty Crance motioned to approval. John Shepherd 2nd. The extension request was approved, unanimously.

The committee decided to hold a special virtual meeting in July to hear the Appeal of the Northern VA Hospital LHRC in the matter of G.M. v Dominion Hospital (due to connectivity issues) and to review the matter of consent and authorization permitted by the timeframe extension.

The committee discussed the draft letter to the Commissioner referencing the Hiram Davis Medical (HDMC) closure. The SHRC respectfully submits the letter to be included among the stakeholder perspectives and recommendations informing the decisions and next steps. Their wish is to extend support in elevating these voices to the highest level, especially the family members who have participated in the workgroups and subcommittees.

LHRC Liaison Reporting: At 10:58, the SHRC considered LHRC liaison reporting. Will Childers stated he attended a Roanoke-Catawba LHRC meeting.

LHRC Business: At 11:03, the SHRC considered LHRC business.

Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Rights Advocate Manager, Facility Ops, presented the Staunton Area LHRC reappointment recommendation.

John Shepherd made a motion to approve the reappointments for LHRC membership. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. Motion passed.

Facility
Staunton Area LHRC
Kim Nine – Reappointment

Tri-City LHRC
Laurel Borrel – Resignation

Region 4
Metropolitan LHRC
Michelle Whittingham – Resignation

Subcommittees: At 11:07, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup
The SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup had nothing to report.

Policy Subcommittees
Betty Crance and John Shepherd gave insight into their review of a policy about the use of behavior treatment plans at the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA). It

should be re-written in a user-friendly descriptive way, after CCCA determines who the audience is (staff, families, patients) and why the changes are needed.

Membership
Subcommittee

Will Childers stated that a potential applicant will be interviewed at the August 2025 meeting.

Max Appeal
Subcommittee

The Max Appeal Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Officer
Nominating
Subcommittee

At 11:27, upon a motion by John Shepherd, and Betty Crance 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (4) and (16), for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment or removal to a public body and the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, discussion of their medical records.

At 11:41, upon a motion by John Shepherd and Betty Crance 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

Christopher Olivo presented the slate of officers and motioned for Will Childers and Betty Crance to become Chair and Vice Chair. Betty Crance 2nd. Motion passed.

VCBR Report:

At 11:45, Tony Davis presented the advocate's report on human rights complaints and restraint for VCBR for the second quarter of 2025.

BREAK

At 11:51, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Appeal:

At 12:30, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Central Region LHRC in the matter of E.J. vs District 19 Community Service Board DBA Greater Reach Community Services Board (CSB). A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding. Will Childers also inform the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

Nicole Durose, Disability Rights Advocate, dLCV presented virtually on behalf of the Individual. Terrelle Stewart, Executive Director, presented virtually on behalf of the CSB. In agreement with the preference of the Individual, the committee decided to review the appeal in open session.

At 1:31, upon a motion by John Shepherd, and Kimberly Hunt 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) and (16), for the protection of the privacy

of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, and discussion of their medical records.

At 2:36, upon a motion by Bruce Ellsworth and Kimberly Hunt 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

Betty Crance motioned the following regarding the matter of E.J. vs District 19 CSB DBA Greater Reach Community Services Board: to uphold Finding #1, Finding #2, Finding #3, Finding#4, Finding #6, Finding #8 and Finding #9, to overturn Finding #5, Finding #7 and Finding #10 with recommendations. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. The motion passed. [Will Childers reminded the parties that they would receive the written findings of the SHRC within 20 working days.](#)

Adjournment

At 2:45, the June 26, 2025, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

Tentative: July 15, 2025
Virtual Only