



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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JACK BARBER, M.D.
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

November 9, 2015

Colleen Miller
Executive Director
disAbility Law Center of Virginia
1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 100
Richmond, VA 23230

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for providing the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) with the opportunity to review your report related to Western State Hospital (WSH) and to provide comments prior to publication. DBHDS shares your commitment to trauma informed, person centered, and recovery based principles of care. The safety of the individuals we serve and the quality of care they receive is of paramount importance to us.

During its review of this report, DBHDS noted that dLCV did not include numerous important actions taken by WSH which reflect its commitment to providing safe and effective care for the individuals it serves. First, the report does not mention WSH's Morbidity and Mortality review following the individual's death nor acknowledge WSH's implementation of all of the follow-up actions recommended by the review. Secondly, dLCV's Report does not reflect WSH's establishment of a Seclusion and Restraint Reduction Committee in 2014. The report does not reference WSH's implementation of a revised Seclusion and Restraint Reduction Plan that focused specifically on individuals at the most risk for prolonged seclusion or restraint. Finally, the report does not acknowledge WSH's 2015 focus on developing safety plans for all individuals and increasing the level of trauma informed care training provided to staff.

Colleen Miller
November 9, 2015
Page 2

As reflected above, DBHDS and WSH share dLCV's commitment to ensuring quality care for individuals throughout Virginia's behavioral health and developmental services system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack W. Barber".

Jack W. Barber, MD

c: Dr. William Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources
June Jennings, State Inspector General
Dr. Mary Clare Smith, Facility Director, Western State Hospital