

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on March 13, 2007 at NW Works in Winchester at 6:00 p.m. Directions are attached.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2007 LHRC MEETING

The January 9, 2007 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Grafton's Ruth Birch Center, located in Winchester, Virginia.

Members Present: Ms. Gretta Doering, Chair, Ms. Mary Louise Mattingly, Ms. Jean Snider, Mr. Fred Sabia, and Ms. Nancy Cartier.

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Mark Gleason (Liaison); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Karen Given (Blue Ridge Residential Services), Amy Smith, Sue Hahn, and Dana Papke (Grafton); Justine Waits (Lutheran Family Services); John Dove (NW Works); Dawn VanMetre (CAV); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Cathy Wolfe-Heber (WC Workshop); Cassie Phipps and Elizabeth Rust (Family Preservation Services); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco Industries); Kristian and Curt Sawyer (A Place To Call Home); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Rick Provenzano (Children's Services of VA); John Midilo (UHS, Front Royal); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corporation); Christian Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Holly Stiles (Rose Memorial); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Doering, LHRC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed all in attendance and also thanked Grafton for hosting the meeting. Those in attendance introduced themselves and where they were from.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting and Mrs. Mattingly seconded, the motion carried.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Comments by Affiliates: Mrs. Hurt discussed a recent client issue involving the use of birth control. Issues such as these highlight the difficulties encountered when the service provider is also a family member. There is always the potential of a conflict of interest in these cases. It is important to support a client's right to self-determination, and to exercise as much decision-making as is possible. However, cases involving medicine and medical treatments require the ability to make informed consent decisions, and this often requires a more knowledgeable person to help the client make an informed choice. In general, a Legal Authorized Representative should only be looked to for consent decisions when the client is unable to understand the information being presented.

Mr. Gleason stressed that all meeting attendants should make sure they should sign the LHRC meeting attendance sheets. All affiliates need to attend at least three meetings each calendar year, and the sign in sheet documents their attendance.

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins reported that he didn't know the exact status of the new regulations. The public comment period had passed and the regulations had been sent back to the Human Rights office to incorporate and review. They must be presented to the governor for his signature before they will be considered accepted. Mr. Collins did note that anytime 20 letters are received regarding any part of proposed regulations, that part must be reviewed, thus slowing down the approval process.

Mr. Collins reminded affiliates that he will provide a training at NW Works in March. He was hoping to have the new regulations by that time, but he can do the training on the present regulations. He suggested that a staff member from each program attend and then go back and train other staff members. He is anticipating that the LAR section could have changes as well as the dispute resolution process. All affiliates will have to comply with the new regulations and some of their policies and procedures may have to be modified to reflect these changes.

Mr. Dove from NW Works complimented Mr. Collins on the quality of his training that was done last year.

Mr. Collins is also participating on a task force regarding mental health issues such as ECOs, TDOs, and involuntary commitments. The task force is ultimately focused on the empowerment of the consumer who may be subject to such proceedings. He will keep this committee posted on the outcomes and invited anyone with suggestions, concerns, etc, to contact him.

Mr. Seymour stated that each residential or in-home provider should have a staff member present for Mr. Collins' training. Human rights regulation changes may be seen in the area of parental choice regarding treatment, and the use of legal versus street names.

Old Business: At the July 18th meeting, Timber Ridge submitted changes in their Behavioral Management System which was discussed by the committee. Mr. Seymour stated that this was essentially informational document and didn't require any action by the board at that time. Timber Ridge now requests that the changes be formally approved for their internal records. Ms. Snider made to motion to accept the changes to Timber Ridge's Behavioral Management System that were discussed at the July 18, 2006 meeting. Ms. Cartier seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Tompkins felt the reflection in the minutes would suffice for their needs and no official letter would need to be written.

New Business: Mr. John Midolo of Universal Health Services, Front Royal presented his policies and procedures to the committee and asked for affiliation with the LHRC. He briefly explained to the committee that the program was a 22 bed residential facility for 13 to 17 year old males. They require an IQ of at least 60 and must have an Axis 1 diagnosis other than Conduct Disorder and or Substance Abuse. The services they will provide will be individual counseling, group therapy and family therapy. Educational services, therapeutic recreation, substance abuse services, social skills training, and treatment planning through a multi-disciplinary approach will be provided. The program will be for three to six months maximum. The referrals will come from the local CSAs. They are hoping to start the program in early February. When they reach capacity, they will employ 35 FTEs with a ratio of 1 to 6. Mr. Seymour stated that he had met several

times with Mr. Midolo and congratulated John on having such a low number of revisions to his policies and procedures therefore Mr. Seymour recommended that the committee approve this new program. Mr. Sabia made a motion to accept UHS's new program's policies and procedures and also to affiliate with the LHRC. Mrs. Mattingly seconded and the motion carried.

There was a hand out from the Warren County Workshop given to the committee members. Mr. Braatz attended the July 18th meeting and gave his report. This hand out contains no changes and is just for informational purposes.

Mr. Collins asked for an update from Mr. MacDonald regarding all of the LARs that was appointed at the last meeting. Mr. MacDonald stated that of the six letters that were sent out, 3 had been returned. The other letter had dual clients, so really only 2 letters were still outstanding. Because of the holidays, he really hadn't had an opportunity to follow up. Training had been provided for the 3 individuals who had returned their letters.

Mr. Collins also asked for an update on clients whose placement was disrupted by the closing of Shenandoah Family Homes. Ms. Sawyer (A PLACE TO CALL HOME) reported things were much calmer, and that 4 individuals are now residing in the home. RESCARE had picked up the other 6, making for a very smooth transition. Mr. Collins commended both programs for their quick action in what was an emergency situation.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2007 at NW Works and the May 8, 2007 meeting will be held at Timber Ridge. Both meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m. The remainder meeting schedule will be discussed in May.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7.02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by : _____
Gail R. Partlowe, NWCSB Administrative Assistant

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison