

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on March 11, 2008 at Lutheran Family Services at **6:00** p.m.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2008 LHRC MEETING

The January 8, 2008 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at the Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, VA.

Members Present: Ms. Greta Doering, Ms. Jean Snider, Ms. Nancy Cartier, and Mr. Fred Sabia.

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith (Grafton); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Elizabeth Rust, Heidi Fields (Family Preservation Services); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Kristian, Curt Sawyer, Connie Kinsley (A Place To Call Home); Theresa Bistel (DePaul Family Services); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives VA); Vera Pistel, Troy Hawkins, Danny Thorne (NW Works); Cheryl Beaudoin (Children's Services/Crossroads Counseling); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corp); Caroline Sodeu, Gar Greer (Heart Havens, Inc.); Cassie Phipps (Lutheran Family Services); Kelly Murphy (Blue Ridge Residential Services); George Young, Paul Scardino. (National Counseling Group, Inc.); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco); Kevin Young (WMC); Eddie Cassidy (Lord Fairfax House); Cathy Wolf-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision & Counseling); Melisa Figueroa (Shenandoah Valley Behavioral); Bryan Kidd (Apple Valley Human Services; pending licensure); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Doering called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m, and welcomed all in attendance. She thanked everyone for coming and Mr. Young for providing such a wonderful meal. She also thanked Ms. Snider for sitting in for her at the last meeting. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves. As always, a large group was present. Mr. Collins commented on how this LHRC had the most active and participating providers.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the minutes of November 13, 2007 and Ms. Snider seconded, the motion carried.

Public comments: None

Comments by Affiliates: Mr. Combs thanked the committee for the budget report that was requested at the last meeting. Mr. Young from the National Counseling Group reported that there would be a free workshop on January 15th from 9 to 4; Cassie Phipps from Lutheran Family Services stated that on January 25th they would have a workshop. These agencies could be contacted for details.

Mr. Seymour asked Ms. Figueroa from Shenandoah Valley Behavioral Health to provide an update on their program. She stated that they currently had 9 girls enrolled and it was

going well. They were working on the educational component part trying to get it up and running.

Mr. Collins wanted the providers to take this time to let other providers know what is going on in their programs, this is a great source of networking.

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins reported that with the new regulations in place, providers would have until March 1 to have their policies and procedures updated. He didn't want them turned into him, as Mr. Combs had done, but when he and/or Mr. Seymour came to visit, they would want to see them. There should not be a lot of changes made but would provide an excellent opportunity to make sure that their agency was operating properly.

Mr. Collins will provide a regional training at NW Works on March 26 at 1:00 p.m. and is open to providers and members. This will be similar to the training held at Western State in October by Ms. Margaret Welsh, he suggested sending someone from your agency who was not present at the training in October. Training is a condition of licensure and it is the provider's responsibility.

Mr. Collins also reminded everyone of the Virginia Primary on February 12th, make sure your voice is heard.

Mr. Seymour reported Mr. Young of the National Counseling Group had also provided his new policies and procedures as he is just getting started in the area. Mr. Seymour stated that there were changes for the providers who service children. The new regulations emphasize the expressed preference of minors. Let them play a big role in the rules of the house, the consequences, etc.

The new regulations also better defines the forms of complaints. When it is really a complaint versus be dissatisfied because they don't like hamburgers. A form was distributed to the group to register a complaint. All the information will be uniform. Mr. Seymour will e-mail that document to Gail for her to get out to the providers. E-mailing the complaint to his office is the preferred process. There was discussion on what a complaint was.....if the client is calling Mr. Collins or Mr. Seymour, it is a complaint. Mr. Collins stated when he did the training in March, to bring examples/scenarios and he would address them.

Review of Programs:

Blue Ridge Opportunities – Ms. Wolf-Heberle reported on the changes made from Warren County Workshop. The program was growing and they were looking for bigger space. Mr. Collins took this time to thank all programs who sent him their news letters, Blue Ridge Opportunities did an outstanding job on theirs.

Blue Ridge Residential – Ms. Murphy reported that at this time they did not have any activity in this area, but was looking forward to working with the many agencies here.

Shenandoah Valley Community Residences – Mr. Combs reported that they have a new group home opening in Meadow Branch. They have had no formal complaints or citations.

National Counseling Group, Inc.: Mr. Seymour again introduced Mr. George Young. Mr. Young presented to the committee in November and was given temporary affiliation pending his policies and procedures and compliance with the agreement of the LHRC. Ms. Cartier made a motion to give permanent affiliation to the National Counseling Group and Mr. Sabia seconded, the motion carried.

Old Business: Mr. Gleason reminded providers who had not submitted their signed agreement and mailed in their \$50.00 check to do so.

Mr. Gleason reported that the two providers who were not in compliance with the attendance record from 2007 had been contacted and stated it was an over site on their part and they would do better in 2008.

At this time Mr. Collins asked Mr. Kevin Young who sat on the commission formed as a result of the VA Tech Tragedy to give a brief summary of what he thought would go to the legislative session. Mr. Young reported that the commission would meet again after the general assembly and would probably continue into 2009, their work was not finished.

New Business: None

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting will be on March 11 at Lutheran Family Services, Ms. Phipps will provide directions prior to the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison