

## Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on March 10, 2009 at NW Works at 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2009 LHRC MEETING

The January 13, 2009 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Lutheran Family Services in Winchester.

**Members Present:** Ms. Gretta Doering, Ms. Jean Snider, Ms. Jeanne Decker, Mr. Fred Sabia and Ms. Nancy Cartier.

**Others Present:** Chuck Collins (Advocate); Mark Seymour (Advocate); Mark Gleason (Liaison/NWCS); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith, Kim Sanders and Dana Papke (Grafton); Heidi Fields and Rachel Heberle (Family Preservation Services); Cassie Phipps and K. Conway (Lutheran Family Services); Paul Scardino (National Counseling Group, Inc.); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Curt and Kristian Sawyer (A Place To Call Home); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Eileen Martelli (Children's Services of VA); Eddie Cassidy (Lord Fairfax House); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives of VA); (NW Works); Kevin Young (WMC); Delcencia Mason (Rose Memorial); Mickie Duncan and Sheila Hice (Shen-Paco); Mandy Caracofe and Rhonda Leith (Where The Heart Is); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

**Call To Order:** Ms. Doering called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. She thanked Cassie for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. All LHRC affiliates in attendance introduced themselves and reported of things happening in their program.

**Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Snider made a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2008 and Mr. Sabia seconded, the motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

**Comments by LHRC Affiliates or Members:** Ms. Sanders (Grafton) reported to the group that there was an incident of mismanagement of client's funds in two of their group homes. 1 employee admitted to taking the funds and another was found through an investigation. Both employees did not return to work and Grafton is pressing charges on behalf of the clients. Grafton has reimbursed the clients. She feels this could happen more as a result of the "tough times" we are experiencing.

**Advocate Update:** Mr. Collins reported that there were 150 people in attendance when the announcement was made regarding the closing of CVTC. There were many questions asked including who would pick up the clients for the 48 bed facility being closed. No clear answer was given and he stated that admissions are still coming for the facility. The department must cut 15% from their budget. He foresees other facilities being closed as a way to meet these shortfalls. 6/30/09 is the scheduled closing date for CVTC.

Mr. Collins informed the group that Mr. Young sits on the committee for law reform. The initial thought with the changes in the MH laws, this would open the flood gates for more admissions. Mr. Young reported that this was not the case. It now allows admission based on history.

Mr. Collins also informed the group that Western State sits on prime real estate which is another issue in itself.

Mr. Seymour reported that CVTC served 648 children in 2008 and the major question is will funding accompany a child into the community? CSA funding has also been cut.

There was much discussion on how this will impact the whole system, CSBs included.

**Program Reports:**

**A Place To Call Home – Kristian Sawyer**

**Blue Ridge Opportunities – Cathy Wolfe-Heberle ( next year’s report will be in March due to conflict with Warren County’s budget meeting)**

**Blue Ridge Residential Services – will report at the March meeting due to illness**

**Bridging the Gaps – Denise Wiitala**

Mrs. Doering stated that all reports were received in a timely manner and all were short and to the point. All members had read them and there were no questions.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:** Mrs. Doering and the committee members visited possibly increasing the number of mandatory meetings for the affiliates. After much discussion it was decided to leave the number at 3 and deal with affiliates who do not abide by this. When attendance letters are written a copy will now be sent to Licensure.

**Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting:** 2009’s meetings are as follows: March 10, 2009 at NW Works; May 12, 2009 at Winchester Medical Center; July 14, 2009 at Timber Ridge School; September 8, 2009 at Northwestern Community Services; and November 10, 2009 at Grafton.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 to convene into Executive Session

**Executive Session:** Ms. Snider motioned that the LHRC convene into closed session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(4). Mr. Sabia seconded and the motion was approved.

Executive Session was adjourned at 8:15

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

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Gretta Doering, Chair

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Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison