

## Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

**The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on March 9, 2010 at Shen-Paco, Industries.**

### **MINUTES OF THE January 12, 2010 LHRC MEETING**

The January 12, 2010 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Lutheran Family Services in Winchester, VA.

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

**Others Present:** Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Maureen Cholewka (Blue Ridge Residential Services); Denise Wiitale McFall (Bridging the Gaps); Eileen Martelli (Crossroads Counseling Center); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives of VA); Heidi Fields (Family Preservation); Kim Sanders and Kelly Coffman (Grafton); Caroline Soder and Rebecca Carlyle (Heart Havens); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Cassie Phipps (Lutheran Family Services); Diann Coulson (National Counseling Group); Mark Gleason (Northwestern CSB); Emily Johnson and Michele Kasen (NOVA Family Services); John Brauer and Vera Pistel (NW Works); Tammie Wittmann (Rose Memorial); Mickie Duncan, Barbie Sharp, and Sheila Hice (Shen-Paco); (SVCR); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mandy Caracofe and Rhonda Foster (Where The Heart Is); Gayle Shanholtz, and Kym Carpenter (Winchester Medical Center); and Gail Partlowe, NWCS.

**Call To Order:** Mr. Sabia called the meeting to order at 6:10. He thanked Lutheran Family Services for hosting the meeting. Mr. Sabia asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

**Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Snider made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

#### **Comments by LHRC Affiliates or Members:**

- ❖ Lutheran Family Services – Essential Pieces for children and families with ASD having free seminar on January 21 at 6:00. Dr. Todd Davis, a developmental optometrist that can prescribe prism lenses, will be opening a practice at Creekside.
- ❖ NW Works – A new facility has been purchased for about a 1/3 of the cost of the original building. It is a large facility, 58,000 sq. ft. with 26 acres. Opening is expected on 10/1.
- ❖ Intensive Supervision – Licensure Specialist Chris Cart visited the program recently. There were no citations and all programs were re-licensed.

- ❖ Timber Ridge – had 6 graduates, with 2 going to college. They are receiving a Top of Virginia award for their community service participation.
- ❖ Blue Ridge Opportunities – has completed their requirements for CARF. Some minor issues but not expecting any problem to obtain 3 year certification.

### **Advocate Update:**

Mr. Collins reported to the group that former LHRC Chair, Ms. Gretta Doering, has been appointed to the State Board. As a member of that board, she will be in the position of advising the commissioner regarding Human Rights issues. Congrats to Gretta!!!!

Mr. Collins reported on the state budget situation. The advocate at Western State Hospital left at the end of December. He and Mr. Seymour will have WSH added to their duties.

There is a freeze on Medicaid waivers as a result of the state-wide budget difficulties. The current governor has recommended that no more individuals be added to the urgent need list. However, with a new governor taking office very soon, no one knows exactly what will change.

UVA will close 1 of its 2 acute units. The change in having 36 beds to 16 beds will take effect in March or April. Crisis Stabilization Programs are now being put on the front burners again.

Mr. Seymour reported that about a year ago Commonwealth Center was going to close because of estimated \$7 million losses. The program has once again been identified to close in 180 days in response to the budget crisis. It is unclear whether the new administration will follow through. Since the flooding, CVTC has been operating at WSH with ½ the bed space. For the time being, CVTC is still accepting new patients. Fax # 540-332-8197 is another number to reach them in addition to their old number.

Children's services are looking interesting. With the possible closure of CVTC and the changes in licensure requirements for intensive in-home providers, the need for a child crisis stabilization unit would be a much needed addition to this area.

### **Program Reports:**

A Place To Call Home – not present due to a family emergency, to report in March  
 Blue Ridge Residential Services  
 Bridging the Gaps  
 Crossroads Counseling Center

**Old Business:** All affiliates signed and returned the 2010 agreements

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:50. There would be a short 10 minute break before re-convening 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). Ms. Decker seconded and the motion was approved.

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:50 PM

**Return to Public Session:**

The LHRC returned to Public Session at 7:50 PM. upon a motion from Ms. Snider. The motion was approved by the LHRC. It was certified that only confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(4) were discussed.

Mr. Gleason reported that the following action items were taken within Executive Session:

1. Ms. Eileen Manuel was unanimously approved by the committee to become a member. Mr. Collins will forward letter and committee's recommendations to the department where she will officially be appointed to the committee. Ms. Manuel will plan to attend the March meeting.
2. Timber Ridge was instructed to develop a new written policy regarding searching students. As part of that policy, it will be required that students and parents/legal guardians be advised of the changed policy at the time of admission. Timber Ridge will submit the policy to the committee before the March meeting and then report back in Executive Session in March. The LHRC and Mr. Collins have asked Timber Ridge to proceed with whatever search-related policy is necessary to keep all students/staff safe.
3. Wall Residences was instructed to provide the committee with a written protocol regarding restrictions prior to the March meeting. Mr. Collins instructed Wall Residences to proceed with whatever is necessary to keep clients safe.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

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Fred Sabia, Chair

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Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison

