

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on September 8 at Good Life Corporation at **6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2008 LHRC MEETING

The July 8, 2008 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Timber Ridge School in Cross Junction, VA.

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

Others Present: Mark Seymour (Advocate); Mark Gleason (Liaison/NWCS); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith and Dana Papke (Grafton); Karen Tompkins and John Lamanna (Timber Ridge); Elizabeth Rust (Family Preservation Services); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives VA); Glenda Anderson and Chris Hott (NW Works); Cassie Phipps and Lynn Kaufmann (Lutheran Family Services); Paul Scardino. (National Counseling Group, Inc.); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision & Counseling); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Kelly Murphy (Blue Ridge Residential Services); Eddie Cassidy (Lord Fairfax House); Kristian and Curt Sawyer (A Place To Call Home); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Doering called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. She thanked Timber Ridge for hosting the meeting. All LHRC affiliates in attendance introduced themselves, and provided any updates regarding their agency. The LHRC and affiliated organizations complimented Timber Ridge Schools on the new gym addition.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the minutes of May 13, 2008 and Ms. Snider seconded, the motion carried.

Public comments: None

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins was not present. Mr. Seymour provided an update to the committee and affiliates. Mr. Collins attended a training for special justices on the recent changes to Virginia mental health laws. He hopes to provide an update about this at the next LHRC meeting.

Mr. Seymour noted that, as of July 1, there were 884 new laws signed into effect by Governor Kaine. Those related to mental health have a broad impact upon all LHRC affiliates, the most significant being upon Northwestern Community Services. Most of these have been discussed in previous LHRC minutes, and members should refer to those minutes for further information.

It is significant to note that the overall impact could include more individuals subject to a temporary detention order, but less available psychiatric beds available to meet the demand. Western State Hospital had to cut 12 positions due to the budget reduction. On

a positive note, an agreement has been reached between Central Virginia Training Center and Western State Hospital regarding the emergency admissions of individuals with co-occurring mental health and mental retardation.

There was also discussion among those in attendance regarding the emergency admission of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues. It remains a practice at this time that hospitals will not consider an admission under these circumstances if an individual is either not sober or under the influence of drugs. As such, a CSB prescreener may have to defer action until the immediate substance intoxication resolves.

Program Reports:

Intensive Supervision – Chris Rousseau

Lord Fairfax House – Eddie Cassidy

Lutheran Family Services – Cassie Phipps

National Counseling Group – Paul Scardino

Program Reviews:

Grafton – This review would take place in Executive Session.

Old Business: Ms. Snider made a motion to increase the affiliation fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00 beginning January 1, 2009. Ms. Cartier seconded and the motion carried. Affiliates asked that a financial summary be provided twice yearly regarding LHRC expenditures. This will be provided by Ms. Partlowe.

New Business: There was to be a “next friend” Authorized Representative appointment but there was some confusion and the person was not present. This appointment will be scheduled for the near future. The other person to be appointed was a family member which did not need to come before the committee.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting will be on September 8th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Good Life Corporation in New Market. The committee chair scheduled the next year’s meetings, but November may need to be adjusted. November 18, 2008 at Grafton; January 13, 2009 at Lutheran Family Services; 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 7:08 to convene into Executive Session

Executive Session: Ms. Decker moved 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. Snider seconded and the motion was approved.

Next Friend Appointment: “On July 14, 2008, the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee met to consider the Appointment of Ms. Tina Hall as an Authorized

Representative/Next Friend. Present at the meeting were LHRC members Gretta Doering, Fred Sabia, and Jeannie Decker. The LHRC moved into Executive Session to consider this matter. Upon conclusion of that Executive Session, the LHRC appointed Ms. Tina Hall as an Authorized Representative/Next Friend.”

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

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison