

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on May 11, 2010 at Rose Memorial

MINUTES OF THE March 9, 2010 LHRC MEETING

The March 9, 2010 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Shen-Paco, Industries in Quicksburg, VA.

Members Present: Mr. Fred Sabia, Ms. Jeanne Decker, Ms. Jean Snider, Ms. Eileen Manuel, and Ms. Nancy Cartier.

Affiliates Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Kristin Sawyer and Angel Brown (A Place To Call Home); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Ms. Molloy (Blue Ridge Residential Services); Denise Wiitale McFall (Bridging the Gaps); Dawn VanMetre, Cynthia du Busc (Community Alternatives of VA); Heidi Fields and Denise Britt (Family Preservation); Clif MacDonald (Good Life); Caroline Souder (Heart Havens); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Cassie Phipps (Lutheran Family Services); Jim Rankin (National Counseling Group); Mark Gleason (Northwestern CSB); Ms. Murray (NW Works); Tammie Wittmann (Rose Memorial); Mickie Duncan, Barbie Sharp, and Sheila Hice (Shen-Paco); Missy Miller (SVCR); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mandy Caracofe and Stephany Dove (Where The Heart Is); and Gail Partlowe, NWCS.

Affiliates Absent: Crossroads Counseling Center; Grafton; Lord Fairfax House; NOVA Family Services; and Winchester Medical Center.

Call To Order: Mr. Sabia called the meeting to order at 6:11. He thanked Shen-Paco for hosting the meeting. Mr. Sabia asked all in attendance to introduce themselves and where they were from.

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

Public comments: None

Comments by LHRC Affiliates or Members:

- ❖ Lutheran Family Services – will be providing behavioral treatment services under their In-Home License
- ❖ Community Alternatives – will be opening a new home in Woodstock with 5 beds
- ❖ Intensive Supervision – Requested authorization to provide services to a client moving to Purcellville for short period under their current LHRC agreement. Ms. Decker made said motion to allow continuation of service for 9 months, Ms. Cartier 2nd, the motion carried.

- ❖ Shen-Paco – a house in Luray has been found and an application from Office of Licensure has been requested. They will ask for affiliation at the May meeting.
- ❖ National Counseling Group – there are plans for expansion

Advocate Update:

Mr. Seymour discussed a newspaper article regarding a settlement involving Grafton School. The 2004 case involved a newly admitted child who died. He cautioned all agencies that they obtain complete information regarding potential admissions to their programs in order to determine whether or not they can meet the potential client's needs. Grafton is opening a new house on Elm Street for children who "age out" of the current program. This will house 3 adult males.

Mr. Collins announced that Ms. Manuel was appointed to the Northwestern LHRC by the State Human Rights Committee. He also noted that Ms. Gretta Doering, past LHRC Chair, is now a member of the State Board advising the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Mr. James Stewart, who was the Inspector General for the Department, is now the acting DBHDS Commissioner. He appears to have the same philosophy as the prior commissioner, which is good.

Mr. Collins informed the group that with the advocate position at Western State Hospital eliminated, he and Mr. Seymour would be assuming those duties. Mr. Seymour was in charge of the admission units, where more than ½ of the admissions are forensics. Mr. Collins would be in charge of the eight long time units.

Mr. Collins made a number of site visits earlier in the day, including: Good Life Corporation, where he was remembered by some and introduced to new members; Sunshine House, where he participated in their staff meeting; and A Place To Call Home and the Summitt House.

Mr. Seymour visited Lutheran Family Services where he met new staff, and the Grafton School campuses at Berryville and the Winchester.

He wanted to remind everyone that the Commonwealth Center is still open with 24 beds and is anticipating moving back to the original location as soon as inspections are made.

Program Reports:

Blue Ridge Opportunities – Ms. Snider stated it was an excellent report.

Community Alternatives – LHRC affiliated are reminded that with respect to peer to peer incidents, it is imperative to protect clients from harm. All parties should be notified of the incident and take action to ensure that the incident doesn't repeat itself.

Family Preservation, Inc.

Good Life – The report generated much discussion regarding medication errors within the program. While citations were issued, Mr. Collins noted that all errors were reported and corrected within a timely manner. Mr. Collins informed LHRC affiliates that medication errors are generally considered as neglect under the regulations. Mr. MacDonald stated he is having difficulty getting a client moved from Western State to CVTC. Mr. Collins would see if he could assist with this issue.

A Place To Call Home – both homes are operating smoothly and there is a possibility of a third home in the not to far off future.

Ms. Phipps questioned a situation where parents/guardians are not dispensing medication to children as prescribed by their doctors. How should this be handled? After much discussion, Mr. Collins stated that if a provider knows that the parent/guardian is not administering medications as prescribed, it should be treated as neglect and reported, whether intentional or not.

Lutheran Family Services will also begin to provide psychological evaluations.

Wall Residences requested that the LHRC approve continued implementation of individual client therapeutic restraints, as presented in a hand-out. These had been previously reviewed and approved by the LHRC. After reviewing each case, and having assurances that guardian's permission and a doctors order was on file, the LHRC approved the extension until the November 2010 meeting (Motion by Ms. Decker, second by Ms. Cartier. The motion carried.)

Mr. Gleason reminded the affiliates of the importance of getting their reports in on time. Ms. Partlowe will again send out the dates for the reporting agencies. The reports are to be received by the "submitted date"

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: The public meeting was adjourned at 7:25. There would be a short 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. Timber Ridge will develop a new written policy regarding the physical search of students. The policy will be implemented when there is sufficient information presented to Timber Ridge that a student has returned to campus with contraband. 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. Ms. Cartier motioned to approve the new policy and Ms. Decker 2nd, the motion carried. Ms. Tompkins will send a letter out to parents/guardians this week and the students will be informed of the new policy on Tuesday, 3/16/10.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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

Fred Sabia, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison