

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on July 18, 2006 at Timber Ridge School in Winchester at **6:00 p.m.** Directions are attached.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2006 LHRC MEETING

The May 9 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at NW WORKS in Winchester, VA.

Members Present: Ms. Gretta Doering, Chair, Ms. Mary Louise Mattingly, Ms. Jean Snider, Mr. Fred Sabia, and Ms. Nancy Cartier.

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Mark Gleason (LHRC Liaison/NWCS); Karen Given (NWCS); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith (Grafton); Kim Sanders (Grafton); Dana Papke (Grafton); Kevin Young (WMC); Linda Jones (Clean); Dawn VanMetre (CAV); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corp); Curt Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Kristian Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Angela Hull (Shen-Paco); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco); Holly Kyle (Rose Memorial); Ofelia Sellati (Sellati & Co); John Sellati (Sellati & Co); Dick Braatz (Warren Co Workshop); John Brauer (NW Works); Vera Pistel (NW Works); Troy Hawkins (NW Works); Carol Cave (NW Works); Staff from Heart Havens; and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Doering, LHRC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. She thanks NW Works for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the March 14, 2006 minutes and Ms. Snider seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Comments by Affiliates: Mr. Gleason announced that Northwestern would be closing the Community House and the Parent-Infant Education Program. He provided a handout to the committee, and described how program participants would continue to be served.

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins reported that there would be a Human Rights workshop in Richmond on September 7th and 8th. This is still in the planning stages and sign up is not available yet. He will keep the committee updated. The new regulations still have not been released. Upon release, there will be public hearing scheduled within 60 days. He has no information on the public hearings as yet.

On June 30th Mr. Collins will provide a workshop on “The 7 Principals of Self Advocacy”, from 10-12 at NW Works. It is an OPEN session. Please contact NW Works to confirm attendance.

Mr. Gleason asked for a clarification regarding the Legally Authorized Representative “Next Friend” status. Specifically, whether or not an employee of a licensed provider could become a “Next Friend” for an individual served by another licensed provider. Mr. Collins indicated that this was not prohibited by the regulations, but that each appointment would ultimately be reviewed by the LHRC to determine whether there was a conflict of interest.

Program Reviews by the LHRC:

Bridging the Gaps – Denise Wiitala

Clean – Linda Jones Mr. Gleason informed Clean that they were not a licensed program and therefore did not need to report to this board. He extended the invitation to remain affiliated with the LHRC.

Sellati & Co., Inc. – Ofelia Sellati The program continues to have difficulty obtaining property on which to open the program, but remains an affiliated member.

Shenandoah Valley Community Residences: Mr. Combs provided a handout to the committee on protective restraints needed to prevent possible harm to an individual as discussed at the last meeting. It was determined that the restraints were needed for the betterment of healing. Mr. Combs would keep the committee informed. Ms. Cartier made a motion to approve the change in the restriction of the fracture brace. Mr. Sabia seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Gleason introduced Mr. Dick Braatz as the new director of the Warren County Workshop.

Winchester Medical Center: Mr. Young provided a handout to the committee highlighting the changes in the visitors’ policy. The two major changes were that (a) visitation may be suspended temporarily (several minutes to hours) should a nurse determine that the milieu is unsafe for visitors at that time, (b) patients have a right to receive visitors, but this right may be restricted if it is determined by doctors order that said visitation is not safe or therapeutic to a patient. This happens quite often on psychiatric units. Mr. Collins clarified that visitation is a right of the patient, not of the public. Ms. Snider made a motion to accept the changes in the visitors’ policy and Ms. Mattingly seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Young informed the LHRC that his organization will be providing new licensed outpatient programs at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in mid June. One program will focus upon the outpatient needs of adolescents ages 14 and up, and the senior program will address the needs of individuals 65 years of age and older.

Good Life Corporation: Mr. MacDonald stated that he may request that the LHRC appointment a number LAR “Next Friends” during the September meeting. He will confirm the number of requests (20+) by the July 18th meeting. As such, the LHRC may be scheduled at the NWCS Sunshine House in New Market, Virginia. Mr. Gleason asked Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Collins to coordinate precisely how the LHRC should go about dealing with such a large group of Authorized Representative appointments during one meeting.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2006 at Timber Ridge School.

Executive Session: Ms. Mattingly made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential client information. Ms. Snider seconded at 7:12 p.m.

Adjournment: After exiting Executive Session, Ms. Cartier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gail R. Partlowe, NWCSB Administrative Assistant

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison