

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be at the Ruth Birch Center in Winchester on January 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Directions are attached.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2006 LHRC MEETING

The November 14th meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at the Sunshine House in New Market, VA.

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

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Mark Gleason (Liaison); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corporation); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Curt Sawyer (APTCH); Kristian Sawyer (APTCH); Connie K. (APTCH); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Holly Kyle (Rose Memorial); Luana Murray (NW Works); Julie Neese (Shen-Paco); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Dana Papke, Sandra Himelright, Amy Smith, Sue Hahn, & Kim Sanders (Grafton); Joe Herbert (Community Alternatives of VA); Kevin Young (WMC); Paula Harman (Lutheran Family Services); Cassie Phipps (Family Preservation); Karen Given (Blue Ridge Residential Services); and Gail Partlowe (NWCSB).

Call To Order: Mrs. Doering, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Mrs. Doering asked for a motion for the Local Human Rights Committee to convene into Executive Session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(4). Mrs. Mattingly so moved and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Local Human Rights Committee has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia required a certification by the Local Human Right Committee that such an executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Human Rights Committee hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE: 4 YES 0 NO

Executive session was concluded at 7:00 p.m. and the regular meeting began.

Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Doering asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the September 12th. Ms. Snider made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Comments by Affiliates: None

Advocate Update:

New Human Rights Regulations: Mr. Collins reported that he had a copy of the proposed human rights regulations. The last day to make comments will be Friday, November 17th. Direct comments can be made to Margaret Walsh through the website.

LHRC Training: Mr. Collins stated he would be doing a training in late winter or early spring.

Alien Code: Mr. Seymour discussed the subject of “illegal” aliens, especially in children services. Since 1950, the Code of Virginia (37.2-827) has indicated that “Whenever any person is admitted to a state facility, the Commissioner shall inquire forthwith into the nationality of the person. If it shall appear that the person is an alien, the Commissioner shall notify immediately the United States immigration officer in charge of the district in which the state facility is located”.

This has recently become an issue with respect to many state services. Mr. Gleason noted that the code is specific to state-level services, and will likely not affect service delivery on a local level. There are no current regulations that require local agencies to make such a decision.

Warning: Mr. Seymour reported a fatal incident that had occurred on a client who had ingested gloves and sustained a blockage of the intestines because of it. He also warned of clothing articles also.

Gangs: My Seymour noted that there is an increase in gang activity in our area. If anyone had any questions, please see him.

Programs Reviewed:

A Place To Call Home Kristian Sawyer provided handouts to the members regarding the new home. They currently have 4 clients. A possible 2nd home and 4 more clients with a day program could be in the future. There was much discussion regarding the new program and Executive Session was recommended to further discuss some of the issues.

Mr. Gleason took this time to thank Community Alternatives/Rescare, the Sawyer's, and NWCS's Joe Remby for assuring the health and safety of clients formerly served by Shenandoah Family Homes.

A motion was made by Ms. Snider to accept affiliation from A Place To Call Home, it was seconded by Mr. Sabia and the motion carried.

Blue Ridge Residential Services Ms. Givens provided handouts to the members. At the present time there are no sponsors in our catchment area but she has been contacted with interest. She is requesting affiliation with the LHRC.

A motion was made by Ms. Snider to accept affiliation from Blue Ridge Residential Services, it was seconded by Ms. Mattingly and the motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Fair Housing Seminar: Mr. Gleason reminded the group of the Fair Housing Seminar that will be held at Northwestern on December 7 from 10:00 to 1:00. Please register if you are interested in attending as there are only 40 seats available.

Agreements: Mr. Gleason reminded affiliates to return the agreements and their checks if they had not already done so. He also stated it was very important to sign in at every meeting attended. With the new agreements, affiliates must attend at least 3 meetings per year to remain affiliated with the LHRC.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ruth Birch Center in Winchester. While the calendars were open, the March 13th meeting was scheduled at NW Works in Winchester at 6:00 p.m. and the May 8th meeting was scheduled at Timber Ridge in Winchester at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session: Ms. Mattingly motioned that the LHRC convene into Executive Session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(4). This was seconded by Mr. Sabia.

Return from Executive Session:

Whereas, the LHRC has convened an executive session on this date pursuant to an affirmed recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the LHRC that such an executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, that the LHRC hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE: 4 YES 0 NO

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison