

DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING
24 Clay Street
February 21, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.

LHRC MEMBERS ATTENDING: Jim Rountree and Sharon Shepherd

OTHERS ATTENDING: Jennifer Sherman, Intercept Youth Services, Valerie Koepfel, Youth Advocate Programs, Henry Ayers, PARC Workshop, Inc., Carol Walker, East Mental Health, Carla Yopp, Trinity Support Services, Tammy Solari, United Support Services, Maria Hodge, United Support Services, Mary Laughinghouse, EHS Support Services, Tameki Tarpley, Claye Corp., Vicki Adams, MPowering Kids, Jenny Delornezo, Hope Tree Family Services, Trish Pendleton, Hope Tree Family Services, Richard Roman, Upside to Youth Development, Lois Barbour and Cynthia Eberhardt, Pioneer Outpatient Behavioral Health, Penny Belcher, Patrick County Developmental Center, Torey Morris, Life Stages, Lynda Edghill, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Victor Rivera, Support Systems, LLC, Evan Boone, Support Systems, LLC, Jennifer Oakes, It's About Time, Inc., Bobbie Jo Seamster, National Counseling Group, Sherry Cowan, Blue Ridge Counseling Services, Charlotte Runyon, Family Preservation Services, Pamela Pritchett, Stepping Stones, Mary Menefee, Mayo Residential, LLC, Trina Washington, Mayo Residential, Dianne Hairston, Mayo Residential, Ashley Callahan and Rochelle Potter, Phoenix, LLC, Greg Preston, Piedmont Community Services, Ron Hairston, Piedmont Community Services, Becky Lovell, Piedmont Community Services, Kevin Paluszak and Jennifer Kovack, Office of Human Rights/DBHDS.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Womack, Nancy Davis, Sharon Hooker, Linda Smith and Rhonda Stone

I. Call to Order - Jim Rountree

In the absence of the committee chairman and vice chair, Jim Rountree called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. There was not a quorum present at this meeting. Becky will set up a special called meeting on February 28 to cover items that require a vote.

II. Introduction of new Human Rights Advocate – Kevin Paluszak

Kevin introduced Jennifer Kovack as our new Regional Advocate. Jennifer has been with the Office of Human Rights for one week. Affiliates were asked to continue reporting to Kevin until further notice while Jennifer is being trained. Jennifer's office is in Danville.

III. Recruitment – Kevin Paluszak

We need a consumer to serve on the Local Human Rights Committee. This person is required to have been a consumer within the last five years, needs to be able to attend four meetings a year, and have transportation available to attend meetings. Contact Becky with referrals and she will forward an application. It is everyone's responsibility to help fill this position. If the committee is not in compliance with committee membership requirements,

everyone could be required to join another LHRC and this would require travel to another area for meetings.

IV. Approval of the November 15, 2011 minutes

a. There was not a quorum at this meeting. Approval of the November 15, 2011 minutes will be held over until the next meeting.

V. Regional Advocate's Report – Kevin Paluszak

a. Kevin led a discussion regarding the closing of training centers in Virginia that serve individuals with intellectual disabilities. The plan is to move them back into their communities to small facilities. According to Kevin, this plan is controversial in that some parents of residents in the training centers prefer that they remain in the centers because it is the only home they have known and they are satisfied with the level of care being given. The center in Petersburg is scheduled to close in 2014. Lynchburg Training Center will close in 2020. The only center scheduled to remain open is Southeastern in Chesapeake, which will have a capacity of 75. This center was chosen to remain open because funds were spent on it recently and it is the most up-to-date facility. Virginia must close these facilities due to a lawsuit involving the American Disabilities Act and human rights.

Communities are not ready to take care of these people. There will be over 4,000 waivers. Some of these individuals have special medical needs that are not available in communities. Community based programs are not ready to meet the additional health requirements for these individuals.

Training will be available for interested parties. Jennifer Kovack will email information to Becky to forward to affiliates.

Kevin advised everyone that the State is hiring people to handle the additional licensure and human rights work. More information is available on the Department of Behavioral Health's website.

b. Kevin explained that quarterly reports run through the quarters ending March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. They are due five days after the end of the quarter. The annual report covers the period from January 1 – December 31 and is due by January 5. The annual report should recap all four quarters.

VI. CSB Activities – Ron Hairston

a. Ron reported that the new Piedmont Community Services Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) will open on March 29. A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house/tours will take place 10:00 – 12:00 Noon. The facility is located at the corner of Booker Road and Church Street Extension in the City of Martinsville. He also reported that the new facility is already at capacity. Residents are scheduled to begin moving in at the end of March. Becky will send invitations to LHRC members and email the affiliates.

VII. Other:

a. **Affiliation requests** – A subcommittee including Jim Rountree and Sharon Shepherd was formed for the purpose of hearing the following affiliation requests and reporting to other LHRC members at the next meeting.

1. **Roanoke Advocate Programs, Inc.** - Valerie Koepfel of Roanoke Advocate

Programs, Inc. reported that her company has been in operation for 36 years and have locations in 18 states. They have been in business in Roanoke for three years. Roanoke Advocate Programs provides In-Home Services, Foster Care Services in Martinsville and youth behavioral health services. Consumers will be served from the Roanoke office, which is located on Brandon Avenue. The reason for requesting affiliation is that they will cross human rights geographic boundaries. They are not new to the state but they are new to the area. They do not plan to serve a large number of consumers.

2. Intercept Youth Services. Inc - Jennifer Sherman of Intercept Youth Service requested affiliation to expand services to include a new office location at 1549 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount.

3. Phoenix, LLC - Rochelle Potter with Phoenix, LLC, reported that they are a new company and will provide Intensive In-Home Services. They have ten full time staff that includes a full-time psychiatrist (Dr. Labineka), and will provide Substance Abuse Services, Medication Maintenance, ID related Job Skills Training, Prevocational job skills, etc. Their funding will come from Medicaid and they will serve adults age 18+. Phoenix can serve a maximum of 80 before adding additional staff. Referrals will come from hospital, medical professionals, court services and parole.

4. EHS Support Services – Mary Laughinghouse requested to expand services in Martinsville and Rocky Mount to include crisis stabilization services. They currently affiliated to provide services in the Martinsville/Henry County, Franklin County and Patrick County areas.

IX. Upcoming LHRC Meeting Dates:

May 8, 2012, 4:00 pm Meeting/Annual Appreciation Dinner immediately following meeting – Quality Inn/Dutch Inn, Collinsville

August 14, 2012 – 4-6:00 pm, 24 Clay Street

November 13, 2012 – 4-6:00 pm, 24 Clay Street

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky Lovell