

**DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 4, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.
24 Clay Street, Martinsville, VA**

LHRC MEMBERS ATTENDING: Aleen Wilson, Nancy Davis, Jerri Crews and Jerry Womack

OTHERS ATTENDING: George Martin and Douglas Jones - The Lamano Agency, Jennifer DeLorenzo and Stephanie Milikin - Hope Tree Family Services, Mary E. Menefee and Dianne Hairston - Mayo Residential, LLC, Jean Odachowski and Ann Minnix - Family Preservations Services, Richard Wagoner - Claye Corp., Vicki Adams - M-Powering Kids, Tim Hairston and Fred Hairston - Upside to Youth Development, Sharon Wilson - Blue Ridge Counseling Services, Jennifer Gobble and Denise Chockley - Support Systems, LLC, Keri Basham and Stephanie Bakely - Wall Residences, Brandi Motley - Alliant Consortium, Raymond Tayag and Kerry Smith - Branches of Hope, Sarah Hamblen - National Counseling Group, Kristin Rush and Chambree McClure - Creative Family Solutions, Donna Hodges and Carla Yopp - EHS Support Services, Sheleta Walker, Joseph Surratt and Mitchell Brown - A New Inspiration, Peggy Tunnell and Leah Riddle - Memorial Hospital, Nan Neese - Regional Advocate, Pat Ephriam and Becky Lovell - Piedmont Community Services.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Potter, Sharon Shepherd and Peggy Ferguson

I. Approval of May 5, 2009 minutes – Aleen Wilson

Becky handed out corrected copies of the minutes for the May 5, 2009 meeting. The minutes previously sent out did not include a full Regional Advocate's report. After reviewing the revised minutes, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as presented.

II. CSB Activities – Pat Ephriam

a. Church Street Extension Group Home Opening – PCS held an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 21 at the new Cottage Place. The home is located on Church Street Extension beside the Lutheran Church and just across the street from the Martinsville city park. State Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn Tavenner was the guest speaker. Cottage Place is home for six intellectually challenged adults who have already moved in.

b. New group home in Franklin County – Plans are to construct a new group home in Franklin County. PCS opened this project up for bids today at 2:00 p.m. A general contractor will be selected in the next few days.

c. Pat reported that PCS also plans to build another group home in the Martinsville area.

d. Bill Cook has been hired as the Director of Clinical Services. He replaces Betty Jewell who moved away from the area.

e. PCS has been instructed by the Governor's office to plan for additional cuts in state funding. They have asked for 5-10-15% scenarios. We anticipate around 10% in cuts. A 15% cut would mean a cut of approximately \$500,000 and would require us to cut staff.

III. Regional Advocate's Report – Nan Neese

a. Nan provided training prior to the LHRC meeting. Some of the topics covered were: (1) complaint and resolution process, (2) reporting requirements, (3) investigations and (4) review of a draft copy of an updated monthly LHRC Human Rights Report.

b. Nan reported that Adrien Monti, the advocate for Roanoke and New River, recently resigned. Nan does not look for this position to be filled due to state budget cuts. Responsibilities will probably be assigned to other advocates.

c. Nan asked the committee to consider each affiliation request so that we don't have to have additional LHRC committees. She suggested that the committee review the Affiliate Agreement, as it may need to be expanded. Nan will email a copy to everyone; however, she needs email address from everyone. The people who do not have email will need to contact Nan to obtain a copy.

d. Committee members advised Nan that the LHRC schedules four regular meetings a year in addition to special called meetings. The 2010 meetings will be scheduled at the next meeting.

e. Nan distributed copies of a newly developed monthly LHRC Human Rights Report. The report lists the various human rights and covers concerns, not provider duties. It also includes peer-to-peer incidents. Nan will email a copy this report to everyone during the next couple of weeks. Affiliates should begin using this report on September 1 and it can be either emailed or faxed to Nan. She also advised affiliates that there is no such thing as "formal" and "non-formal" complaints. A complaint is a complaint, and must be reported and included on the monthly report.

IV. Affiliation requests:

1. A New Inspiration – Mitchell Brown reported that A New Inspiration opened in 2007 and currently operates in the Danville area, and is licensed to provide mental health support services. They have an office at Six East Main Street in Martinsville and have a staff of four mental health professionals; two licensed mental health professionals, one program director and one site director. A New Inspiration anticipates serving 20-25 clients in the Martinsville/Henry County area. Nan recommended that the committee consider approval to provide mental health support services now and allow A New Inspiration to request approval for in-home services at the next meeting.

Nancy made a motion to grant A New Inspiration affiliation to provide mental health support. Jerry seconded to the motion and the LHRC unanimously approved the motion. Becky will send A New Inspiration an Affiliation Agreement.

2. Empowering Kids – Vicki Adams reported that Empowering Kids has been in business for three years in Martinsville and Henry County. They also serve Patrick County. Empowering Kids provides intensive in-home and mentoring services. They serve many probation and parole cases. Their Martinsville Office is located at 15 Cleveland Avenue. LHRC members did not receive packages to review prior to today's

meeting; however, Nan will include this information in the packages for the next meeting.

Aleen made a motion to grant affiliation to Empowering Kids. Nancy seconded the motion and the LHRC unanimously approved the motion. Becky will forward Empowering Kids an Affiliation Agreement.

V. LHRC Vacancies – Aleen Wilson

Peggy Ferguson should be contacted to see if she is interested in continuing to serve on the committee.

VI. Other:

a. Update on annual assessments – Becky reported that she has received affiliate assessments from everyone except ATIBA Youth Intervention and Vision Family Services. She will send ATIBA a second notice.

b. Becky reported that she has made numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact Vision Family Services. She has left several telephone message and her calls have not been returned. Nan expressed that she has had similar experiences. Vision Family Services also has not returned their Affiliation Agreement. After discussing the matter, Aleen made a motion to terminate Vision Family Services' affiliation. Nancy seconded the motion and the LHRC voted unanimously to terminate their affiliation. Nan will notify licensure.

c. Dominion Day Services – Aleen reported that Becky presented her with a letter from Dominion Day Services indicating that they are affiliated with the Roanoke LHRC and that the Roanoke LHRC voted to approve their request to provide treatment to one client in the Boones Mill area, which is covered by the PCS LHRC. The client previously lived in Roanoke and has moved to the Boones Mill area, and has requested to continue services with Dominion Day Services. Dominion Day Services is fully aware that this extension applies only to this one client. Nan advised the committee that Blue Ridge LHRC (Roanoke) would be responsible for any complaints or investigations, etc. regarding this client. Aleen made a motion to all Dominion Day Services to service this client as requested. Nancy seconded and a unanimously followed to allow Dominion Day Services to provide services to this client.

d. Affiliate Reports:

- Family Preservation Services, Inc. – Ann Minnix reported that she has obtained an additional license to provide therapeutic day treatment at Head Start, 200 Dent Street, Rocky Mount. Head Start requested Family Preservation of Roanoke to provide service at the Head Start location in Rocky Mount. Any complaints will be reported to the Blue Ridge Human Rights Committee in Roanoke. Ann requested changing affiliation for this program. After discussing the matter, the PCS LHRC granted permission to do so. Ann will report on this at the next meeting.

- Wall Residences – Kelly Basham reported that they have made some changes and Experienced a two-week lapse in services for one client. They are working with three new potential providers in the area and requested the committee to extend their affiliation to include these providers. Wall Residences performs the home inspections and has approximately 150 homes throughout Virginia working under their license. Nan will provide them with a site review form for the region.

- Upside to Youth Development – Fred Hairston reported that they are located at

943-A Starling Avenue. They are not currently serving clients but will begin services on September 9.

- Support Services – Jennifer Gobble reported that they are moving to a site on Claiborne Avenue in Rocky Mount. They will come back to the next meeting to add this site. Support Services currently serves 35-40 clients in mental health supports and are marketing in the Martinsville area. They are established in Roanoke and also serve Danville and Lynchburg.
- Creative Family Solutions – Kristen Rush reported that they now serve three clients in M/HC. They have no current plans to expand in that area.
- EHS – Donna Hodges reported that they provide mental health supports and currently serve 140 clients and are looking for an office in M/HC.
- Family Preservation – Jeannie Odachowski reported that they have been in business in Martinsville for one year and are in 12 Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County schools. They will provide services to 70 school children this year.
- The Lamano Agency – George Martin reported that they have five clients in the area (two in Franklin County, two in Henry County and one in Martinsville). They have no plans to serve more.
- Alliant Human Services – Brandi Motley reported they provide in-home services in M/HC and Danville. They provide therapeutic services in Roanoke and in Tidewater. They have had several referrals in Martinsville but do not provide therapeutic services in the area.
- Memorial Hospital – Peggy Tunnell reported that they have a 12-bed unit and are staying full. They have no new services.
- HopeTree Family Services – Jenny Delernzo reported that they have one group home in the area. Two of the residents there are moving to Salem so they will have two vacancies. They are planning their annual fundraising walk with the proceeds going towards maintenance of the home.
- Branches of Hope – Raymond Tayag reported that they opened June 29 and are accepting new clients under the Medicaid Waiver Program. They provide residential support and are located at 601 Starling Avenue.
- Mayo Residential – Mary Menefee reported that things are going well and there have been no changes in their program.
- Blue Ridge Counseling Services – Sharon Wilson reported that she currently provides day treatment in Meadows of Dan Elementary School and she has recently been approved to provide services at Blue Ridge Elementary School. She requested the LHRC to extend her affiliation to include Blue Ridge Elementary School. Aleen made a motion to include the Blue Ridge Elementary location. Nancy seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

X. Executive Session – Jerri Crews made a motion “that the LHRC go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.1-344.A. (4) and (15) for the purpose of protecting the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of medical and mental records, namely to conduct a review of an individual service plan”. Aleen Wilson seconded the motion and committee members voted unanimously to go into closed session.

**Members present: Aleen Wilson, Jerri Crews, Jerry Womack and Nancy Davis.
Others present: Keri Basham and Stephanie Bakely (Wall Residences), Becky Lovell and Nan Neese.**

Jerri Crews made a motion “to reconvene the LHRC into public session.” Nancy Davis seconded the motion and committee members voted unanimously to reconvene into public session.

Jerri Crews made a motion that each member be certified that to the best of their knowledge that only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were heard, discussed or considered. Each LHRC member present responded individually, “I so certify.”

Nancy commended Wall Residences for a “job well done” and made a motion to accept notice that the restrictive plan previously reviewed be discontinued. Jerri seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, November 10 – 4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Patrick W. Ephriam