

**DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 4, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.
24 Clay Street - Martinsville, VA**

ATTENDING: Aleen Wilson, Sharon Shepherd, Nancy Davis, Jerri Crews and Jerry Womack

OTHERS ATTENDING: Lynda Edgehill (Goodwill), Jeannie Odachowski (Family Preservation Services), Tom Britton (National Counseling Group), Henry Ayers (PARC), Douglas Jones (The Lamano Agency), Sandra Tolliver (Alliant Consortium), Janet Marie York (Branches of Hope), Raymond Tayag (Branches of Hope), Keri Basham (Wall Residences, LLC), Kerry Smith (Branches of Hope), Peggy Tunnell (Memorial Hospital of Martinsville), Ernest Long (Mayo Residential), Sherry Miles (Regional Advocate) and Jim Rountree and Becky Lovell (Piedmont Community Services).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Potter and Peggy Ferguson

Chairman Aleen Wilson brought the meeting to order.

I. Welcome New LHRC Member

The new member was unable to attend this meeting.

II. Approval of Committee Minutes – Aleen Wilson

After reviewing the minutes for the August 8, 2008 meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve them as presented.

III. CSB Activities

a. Jim reported that the Patrick County Office will relocate to the new office building in Patrick Springs on November 20 and 21. It was necessary to relocate the office due to a highway coming through on Dobyons Road. The new office is located at 22280 Jeb Stuart Highway in Patrick Springs. The office will be closed during the move but will reopen on Monday, November 24 for clients.

A grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for December 18, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. and the open house will continue through until 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

b. Clark Construction began grading on the Church Street Extension group home on November 13. According to Clark, it should take approximate 4–6 months to complete the home. The plan is to close the Cottage Place on Starling Avenue and move those residents to the new home. The one-story home will serve six adults.

c. Budget Cuts – Piedmont recently received a cut of 5% (\$184,000) in state funding. Cuts have been made and there are no plan to reduce staff at this time. The agency is reviewing all travel and discretionary spending for possible cuts.

IV. Regional Advocate’s Report – Sherry Miles

a. Sherry reported that the State Human Rights Committee approved recent by-law modifications submitted by the Piedmont Community Services Local Human Rights Committee on September 6, 2008. These modifications are as follows:

- (1) Article II (B) Purpose and Duty – approved the change to reflect the current name of the human rights regulations.
- (2) Article III (A) Membership – approved a decrease in membership from nine to seven committee members.

b. Sherry reported that the Human Rights Department of the State received a 15% cut in funding. They have offered early retirement to those who qualify and some layoffs have occurred. Vacant positions in the Office of Licensing are not being filed. There will be more information available in 2009 and at that time more will be known about what will happen in 2010.

c. Sherry advised providers to document files when there is a problem with a consumer. An example would be to document the appropriate file when a consumer starts to complain.

d. Affiliate Requests:

(1) Branches of Hope – Representatives of Branches of Hope reported that they are located at 317 Brown Street in Martinsville. They were previously an assisted living facility transitioning into a group home. They will start with four residents (male and female) and will care for a maximum of six residents. Janet Marie York is the director for the location. LHRC members received information regarding Branches of Hope in with their meeting packages to review prior to this meeting. Upon discussing the matter, a motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote followed approving Branches of Hope for affiliation.

(2) Alliant Consortium – Sandra Tolliver reported that Alliant Consortium was formed in Richmond in June 2007. They provide therapeutic day program services for persons age 4 – 21 with behavior and learning issues. They currently have a location in Danville and plan to open a location in Martinsville to serve 20-25 clients. Jerry Womack requested a copy of their annual report and Ms. Tolliver will send this. LHRC members received information about Alliant Consortium to review prior to the meeting. Upon discussing the matter, a motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote followed approving Alliant Consortium affiliation.

V. Affiliate Reports:

The following affiliates gave a brief report:

Wall Residences, LLC	Memorial Hospital of Martinsville	PARC
National Counseling	Family Preservation Services	Goodwill
The Lamano Agency	Mayo Residential	

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 (Alternate date for bad weather – Tuesday, February 10),
4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 – 4:00 pm - LHRC Appreciation Dinner (Location – Becky will contact the Dutch Inn for availability)

Tuesday, August 4, 2009 – 4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. James E. Rountree, Sr.