

**DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 3, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.
24 Clay Street - Martinsville, VA**

ATTENDING: Aleen Wilson, Sharon Shepherd, Jerri Crews, Jim Potter and Jerry Womack

OTHERS ATTENDING: Lynda Edgehill (Goodwill), George Martin and Douglas R Jones (The Lamano Agency), Angie Furrow (Didlake, Inc.), Henry Ayers (PARC), Sharon Wilson (Blue Ridge Counseling Services), Jenny DeLorenzo (Hope Tree Family Services), Donald Wheeler and Leonard Wiley (ATIBA Youth Intervention Services), Trevolia Johnson and Award Morris and Letishal Kelly (Vision Family Services, LLC), Sandra Tolliver (Alliant Consortium), Sara Ingram (Creative Family Solutions), Bobbie Jo Seamster (National Counseling Group), Jennifer Gobble, Rochelle Bower Potter and Ashley Callahan (Support Systems, LLC), Mary E. Menefee and Dianne Hairston (Mayo Residential, LLC), Peggy Tunnell (Memorial Hospital of Martinsville), Donna Hodges and Carla Hodges (EHS Support Services), Sherry Miles (Regional Advocate) and Jim Rountree and Becky Lovell (Piedmont Community Services).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Davis and Peggy Ferguson

Chairman Aleen Wilson brought the meeting to order.

I. Welcome New LHRC Member - New member was unable to attend meeting.

II. Approval of Committee Minutes – Aleen Wilson

After reviewing the minutes for the November 11, 2008 meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as presented.

III. CSB Activities

a. Jim reported that construction on the new group home on Church Street Extension is approximately one-half complete. It will be finished in May and will replace Cottage Place. Clark Construction is the contractor.

b. PCS has received funding for a new group home in Franklin County. It will be two years before it is complete. Initial planning is under way.

c. Budget Cuts – PCS has been asked for three budgets reflecting 5%, 10% and 15% cuts. The budget cuts for the 2008/09-year so far have been \$184,000. Jim is not sure what budget cuts will look like for the 2009/10 year. Mental health service providers are hoping that cuts will not be so severe that they have to turn people away.

d. Jim expressed the committee's appreciation to Sherry for all her hard work and help. Effective February 24, Sherry will no longer serve as this area's advocate as her service area has changed. Jim also presented Sherry with a PCS mug.

IV. Regional Advocate's Report – Sherry Miles

a. Sherry reported that Nan Neese will take her place as Regional Advocate for this area effective February 24. She has been reassigned to the Goochland area of the state. Sherry provided committee members and affiliates with contact information for Nan Neese and she also provided new Human Rights Posters.

b. Sherry said that they may be further state budget cuts. She said that the Children's Program (CCCA) is scheduled to close June 30. Other possible closings are the Southeaster Virginia Training Center in Tidewater and children's services at the Marion facility. If these services cannot close, then the state will have to come up with the money through other sources. Sherry stressed the importance of documentation that describes clearly the events of the day.

c. She has found that in-home and M/H Support staff are not documenting files properly. She has found two cases in one month where the parent says the staff person did not come and the staff person incorrectly documented files saying that they did go to the home. Sherry says the trend is not being honest and providers are having to repay Medicaid for billing for services that were not provided. She suggested checks and balances to make sure in-home visits were made and services were provided.

e. Nan Neese prefers electronic communication and will change monthly reporting from fax to email. Peer-to-Peer Incident Reports will also be reported through email. Nan will be at the next meeting in May.

V. Affiliate Requests:

(1) Blue Ridge Counseling Services – Sharon Wilson requested affiliation as an individual provider. She is working on her LCSW designation and should have this in about one week. One of her last licensing requirements is that she affiliates with the local human rights committee. Sharon stated that she plans to provide therapeutic day treatment services for children ages 5-13 at Meadows of Dan Elementary School. Upon discussing the request, a motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote followed approving Blue Ridge Counseling Services for affiliation.

(2) Support Systems Mental Health Services – Jennifer Gobble, a representative of Support Systems Mental Health Services requested affiliation. Jennifer told committee members that her organization would provide mental health support services in the Rocky Mount/Franklin County area, serving people with severe and chronic mental health issues. Their office is in Vinton. According to Jennifer, psychiatric services will be provided at their Vinton location and clients will be transported there for services. They do not currently have a location in Franklin County. Upon discussing this request for affiliation, a motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote followed approving Support Systems Mental Health Services.

(3) Vision Family Services – Trevolia Johnson, a representative of Vision Family Services, advised LHRC members that her organization was started about one year ago and is based in Gastonia, North Carolina. They provide independent living skills training services in North Carolina and wish to expand into Virginia to include intensive in-home services for persons at risk of jail terms and substance abuse. They have an on-site therapist at their office at the Jefferson Plaza, 10 E. Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia. After discussing this request, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Vision Family Services for affiliation.

(4) ATIBA Youth Intervention Services, LLC. – Donald Wheeler, owner of ATIBA Youth Intervention Services, told committee members that they plan to provide prevention services to children and young adults ages 4-21. They are based in Richmond and have been in business five months. They anticipate having approximately 10

employees in the Martinsville area and plan to be open in May. After discussing this request, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve ATIBA Youth Intervention Services, LLC for affiliation.

VI. Affiliate Reports:

LHRC members heard brief reports from the following affiliates:

Didlake, Inc. – No changes.

National Counseling – Their agency is growing.

The Lamano Agency - They celebrated their 10th Anniversary in January.

Creative Family Solutions - No changes.

Memorial Hospital of Martinsville - The hospital have been busy serving clients.

PARC – No changes.

Hope Tree Family Services – They are building two new group homes in Salem and will begin to look for residents soon.

Mayo Residential – No changes.

EHS Support Services – They are continuing to grow and have no major changes.

Goodwill – Their work opportunities have decrease due to the economy. They are continuing to look for other job sources in order to keep their clients working.

Alliant Consortium’s reported that their request to provide additional services would be delayed until the next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 – 4:00 pm - LHRC Appreciation Dinner (Location – Dutch Inn/Quality Inn

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.