

DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING
New College Institute - Martinsville, VA
August 9, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.

LHRC MEMBERS ATTENDING: Jim Rountree, Jim Potter, Nancy Sprinkle and Davin Estep.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Valerie Udofia, Life Stages; Jean Odachowski, Family Preservation; Clarence Shelton, Love and Happiness; Mary Menefee, Mayo Residential, LLC; Cynthia Bradford and Dana Murdock, Community Alternatives VA (ResCare); Lewis Walton, East Mental Health; Glen Hairston, Choices Family Services LLC; Brigitte Funk and Sabrina Mason, United Support Services; Sherry Cowan, Blue Ridge Counseling; Kippi Lilly Stevenson, Antonio McClendon and David Hamilton, Calm Source, LLC, Pamela Pritchett, Stepping Stones; Joseph Pratt, National Counseling Group; Kimberly Kellam and Miesha Dawson, Trinity Support Services; Laura Steere and Rick Steere, Infinity Acres Ranch, Teresa Hale, Support Systems, Inc., Janelle Blackwell, Bridge of Faith, LLC, Carlton Redd, MARC Workshop, Lori Bixby, ATIBA, Fredrick Mack, Praises Mental Health Services, Karen White and Charnelle Smith, Innovative Family Service, Becky Lovell, Kelly Koebel and Ron Hairston, Piedmont Community Services, and Jennifer Kovack, Office of Human Rights/DBHDS.

LHRC MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Hooker

I. Call to Order – Nancy Sprinkle, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. Approval of May 10, 2016 minutes

Upon reviewing the minutes from the May 10, 2016 meeting, Becky noted a change in the minutes under Affiliate Reports. It should have been reported that “Trinity Support Services moved from 32 Bridge Street to 601 Starling Avenue. They had nothing else to report.” Jim Rountree made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with the noted addition. Jim Potter seconded the motion and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

IV. Advocate’s Report – Jennifer Kovack

a. Jennifer reported that the number of affiliates attending today was less than usual because several affiliates have begun to report to other LRHCs. They no longer have to report to multiple LHRCs.

Jennifer reported that the new regulations were approved by the SHRC on July 13 and are now in the final stages of approval in the Governor’s office. She advised that there is no required time frame for the Governor’s approval.

The State Human Rights Committee has not given any further information on consolidating the LHRCs, so we will continue as usual. She will keep everyone up-to-date on changes as the information is received. She hopes the transition will be complete by the end of the year; however, she warned that this may not be the case. When the changes are

implemented, affiliates will no longer report to the LHRC but through the CHRIS system. Affiliates will only need to attend a meeting when they have something to report. There will be some training on what needs to be sent to Human Rights.

IV. Affiliation Requests:

a. Infinity Acres Ranch – Rick and Laura Steere, Co-founders of Infinity Acres Ranch, told the LHRC about their ENABLE (**E**nriching **N**urturing **A**nimal **B**ased **L**earning Experiences) program. ENABLE is a day support program that will serve adults with intellectual disabilities, Autism, PTSD, Depression, physical impairments, etc. Infinity Acres has many domestic and exotic animals. Along with the experience of connecting with the animals, their program will provide education and encouragement to develop mental, emotional and physical skills, promoting healing and positive changes. Consumers will be guided by trained professionals in a Person Centered Approach to learning. Infinity Acres is a non-profit and is located at 136 Joppa Road, Ridgeway, VA. Jim Potter made a motion to approve Infinity Acres Ranch’s request for affiliation. Davin Estep seconded the motion and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

b. Patrick County Development Center – PCDC did not have a representative at the meeting but sent a letter advising the committee that they have submitted an application to licensure for a service modification to include Community Integration Non-Center-Based Services. This service allows them to take consumers out into the public to participate in volunteer opportunities activities of individual interest. Jennifer Kovack advised that this request did not need a vote.

c. Stepping Stones – Pam Pritchett advised the committee that she is also seeking licensure for Community Integration Non-Center-Based Services that will allow Stepping Stones to take consumers out into the public for volunteer opportunities and activities of individual interest. Jennifer Kovack advised that this change did not need a vote.

d. MARC Workshop – Carlton Redd reported that MARC Workshop is a pre-vocational training center located on Church Street in Martinsville. They serve 20 clients and have been in business since 1969. They currently provide day support services to adults with intellectual disability and are working towards licensure to offer non-center-based services. They requested affiliation with the LHRC. Jim Rountree made a motion to approve this request as presented. Davin Estep seconded the motion and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

e. Bridge of Faith, LLC – Janelle Blackwell reported that Bridge of Faith is new to The Martinsville area and will offer mental health skill building services to adults over age 21. They have an office located in the Jefferson Plaza. Staffing includes Ms. Blackwell and two business partners. They do not currently have any licensed staff but will hire additional staffing when they complete the licensure process. Jim Potter made a motion to approve this request for affiliation. Jim Rountree seconded the motion and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

V. Other:

a. Affiliate reports:

Family Preservations Services – Jeannie Odachowski reported that their summer programs are ending and they have worked hard to keep their clients engaged during the summer. She had no incidents to report.

Blue Ridge Counseling – Sherry Cowan had nothing to report.

National Counseling – Joseph Pratt had no incidents to report. He reported that they are adding several Pittsylvania County Schools to TDT services (Elementary Schools - Brosville, Chatham, Gretna, John L. Hurt, Jr., Kentuck, Mount Airy, Southside, Stony Mill, Twin Springs, Union Hall; Middle Schools – Chatham, Dan River, Gretna, Tunstall; High Schools- Chatham, Dan River, Gretna, Tunstall; Alternative Education – Regional Alternative, STEM).

Piedmont Community Services – Kelly Koebel reported that PCS has made some modifications to their PACT license. They are currently located on Starling Avenue and are in the process of moving to 1101 Brookdale Street in the Food Lion Shopping Center. She also reported that they have added two school sites to Case Management: (1) Campbell Court Elementary School and (2) Collinsville Primary.

Community Alternatives – Cindy Bradford reported that they had two incidents, (1) an individual became ill and was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. He has been release and doing okay, and (2) their day support van was struck when a tire came off of a truck in the adjoining lane while providing non-center-based services. There were no injuries and the van has been repaired.

Piedmont Community Services – Ron Hairston – Ron reported that Jim Tobin has retired as Executive Director and Greg Preston was selected as the new Executive Director. Mr. Preston has been with PCS for 16 years, most recently serving as the Director of Community Support. Mr. Hairston had no incidents to report.

United Support Services – Bridgett Funk reported that they are winding up on summer programs at their four Bedford area schools.

ATIBA – Laura Bixby reported that they had no incidents to report. She also reported that they will be going to the Danville LHRC. They are currently serving three in-home clients and 12 in Mental Health Skill Building.

Trinity Support Services – Kimberly Kellam had nothing to report.

Life Stages, Inc. – Valerie Udofia had nothing to report.

Stepping Stones – Pam Pritchett had no incident to report. She also reported that they have been approved to provide non-center-based services.

Love and Happiness – Clarence Shelton had nothing to report.

Mayo Residential – Mary Menefee had nothing to report.

Support Systems, Inc. – Teresa Hale reported that they had two incidents. The first incident involved an automobile accident where their vehicle was hit from behind, There were no injuries reported. She also reported that they had a client that had a stroke and was in ICU in a coma.

East Mental Health – Lewis Walton reported that this will be their last meeting in Martinsville that they will be reporting in Roanoke going forward. He reported that they had one incident to report. A client complained of shortness of breath and was transported to ER and discharged the same day.

Calm Source, LLC - David Hamilton reported that they had no incidents to report.

Branches of Hope – James Ester reported that they had no incidents.

Bridge of Hope, LLC - Janelle Blackwell reported that she is new to this LRHC and requested affiliation earlier.

Praises – Fred Mack reported that they have no incidents to report.

Innovative Family Services – Charnelle Smith had nothing to report.

Choice Family Services – Glen Hairston had nothing to report.

b. LHRC Annual Assessment – Becky reported that several affiliates have not paid the \$62.50 assessment that represents an assessment for one-half of the year since the committee will be dissolved. Becky asked the affiliates to vote on whether or not there

should be a penalty on late payments. All affiliates with the exception of Valerie Udolfia with Life Stages voted to approve a \$25.00 late fee if not paid by August 31.

c. Jennifer Kovack advised the affiliates that we are now in Region 3. The regions have been realigned. We were previously in Region 6. She explained that the affiliates only have to affiliate with one LHRC effective when the Governor signs off on the LHRC changes proposed. She will email a map showing the different regions to Becky and she will send it out to the affiliates.

VI. Public Comments

None

VII. Upcoming 2016 LHRC Meeting Dates:

November 15, 2016, 4:00 pm., New College Institute, Room 303

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky Lovell