

**MINUTES**  
**LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**And APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**  
**May 8, 2007 – 4:00 P.M. - Dutch Inn/Quality Inn Restaurant**

**ATTENDING:** Richard Cobb, Aleen Wilson, Jerri Crews, Jim Potter, Sharon Leftwich, Rob Hiatt, and Jerry Womack

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Donna Hodges (EHS Support Services), Dianne Hairston and Mary Menefee (Mayo Residential), George Martin (Lamano Agency), Jenny Mays (Hope Tree), Megan Anderson and Ashley Callahan (Didlake), Sherry Miles (Regional Advocate), and Jim Rountree and Becky Lovell (Piedmont Community Services).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gudrun Rapp-Chase

Committee Chairman Richard Cobb brought the meeting to order.

**I. Approval of Committee Minutes – Richard Cobb**

After reviewing the minutes for the February 13, 2007 meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve these minutes as presented.

**II. CBS Activities – Jim Rountree**

- a. Jim reported that PCS is eligible to participate in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and that the agency is looking into providing this benefit for employees. PCS feels that the VRS would be a good recruitment and retention tool in addition to being a good retirement plan for the staff.
- b. Becky reported that PCS has recently participated in several outreach opportunities for local people losing their jobs. PCS was represented at the Hooker Furniture Community Services Fair in March and she plans to participate in the Bassett Furniture Community Services Fair on May 23. Emphasis is being placed PCS's sliding payment scale to let these people know that services are available. Information on coping with a job loss is also made available.
- c. Becky also reported that she recently met with the Community Support managers and supervisors to provide training on the completion and distribution of Peer-to-Peer Incident Reports.

**III. Regional Advocate's Report – Sherry Miles**

- a. Sherry reported that Jerry Womack's current term expires on June 30 and that he has requested to serve another three-year term. She has received a completed re-appointment application from Jerry. A motion was made, received a second and received unanimous approval for the re-appointment of Jerry Womack to serve an additional term, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Sherry will process the application.
- b. Sherry distributed copies of winter edition of the Department's newsletter, Human Writes. She asked that the committee review the newsletter and let the SHRC know if they benefit from the newsletter. They are evaluating the effectiveness.

- c. Sherry advised affiliates that a “serious injury” includes when a consumer is sick or falls. A report to the DMH should be made if the person goes to the doctor or ER even if they determined it is not a serious injury.
- d. In regards to changes in the human rights regulations, the regulations are now on line and have been sent to the governor to sign. There is no time frame for them to be signed. Training is tentatively scheduled for the first week of September. She will let everyone know more about the training as soon as the governor’s approval is received.
- e. Sherry reported that the Commissioner has approved a “smoking ban” in all state facilities. Consumers and staff will be offered gum, patches, etc. and encouraged to quit smoking.
- f. Sherry led a discussion regarding the affects that the Virginia Tech tragedy will have on mental health services in the state. It appears that more services will be available and the timeframe to receive services should be shortened. Services are not received in about two to three weeks. She expects to see more funding for mental health and an improved follow-up system for court-ordered mental health services.

#### **IV. Annual Affiliate Assessment – Richard Cobb**

Richard led a discussion regarding an affiliate assessment. A motion was made, seconded and passed to assess an annual fee of \$125 for each affiliate, the same amount that was assessed last year. This money goes toward expenses (postage, copying, etc.) for the LHRC. Becky will send out invoices in late June.

#### **VI. Other:**

- a. Chairman and Vice Chair for the upcoming year – After discussing the Chairman and Vice Chair positions, Aleen Wilson was nominated to serve as Chairman, and Jim Potter was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. A motion was made to accept the nominations and was unanimously approved by the committee.
- b. Richard advised the committee that Sharon Shepherd, Executive Director for the Mental Health Association, has expressed an interest in serve on the LHRC. Sherry will forward an application to her and submit it to the SHRC upon receipt.
- c. Affiliate Reports – Ashley Callahan, Didlake, Inc. reported that they have been in Franklin County for two years and have not had any complaints. She also reported that no one from PCS has toured their Rocky Mount facility and she has not met with Sonny Moore in a long time. Becky will have Jim Tobin follow up on this.

#### **VII. Recognition of out-going LHRC member**

Aleen recognized Richard Cobb for his years of service and presented him with a framed certificate from the State Human Rights Office.

#### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

Tuesday August 14, 2007, 4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street

Tuesday, November 6, 2007, 4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street

Respectfully submitted by:

---

Dr. James E. Rountree, Sr.