

MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.

ATTENDING: Aleen Wilson, Jerri Crews, and Jerry Womack

OTHERS ATTENDING: Donna Hodges (EHS Support Services), Siera Watkins and Diane Hairston (Mayo Residential), Peggy Tunnell (Memorial Hospital of Martinsville), Jenny Mays (Hope Tree Family Services), Richard Wagoner (Claye Corp.), Henry Ayers (PARC), Sherry Miles (Regional Advocate), and Jim Rountree, Bonita Vipperman, Pat Ephriam, and Becky Lovell (Piedmont Community Services), and Sharon Shepherd (potential LHRC member).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Potter, Gudrun Rapp-Chase, Sharon Leftwich, Rob Hiatt

Committee Chairman Aleen Wilson brought the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Committee Minutes – Aleen Wilson

The minutes from the May 8, 2007 meeting were not approved due to the lack of a quorum. They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

II. CBS Activities – Jim Rountree

a. Jim reported that PCS is building a new office in Franklin County. The new office will be located at the corner of Technology Drive and N. Main Street and will replace the office on Court Street. The target opening date is Spring 2008.

b. PCS is also moving its Patrick County office from its current location on Blue Ridge Avenue to the former Car Quest building on Dobbins Road in Stuart. They have seriously outgrown the building on Blue Ridge Avenue and the new location will provide additional space. A new road will eventually come through the new location; however, Piedmont is also looking at two other available building sites (one near the hospital and one near PHCC) where a permanent office can be constructed.

c. Jim reported that Kim Redd is now the program manager for Horizons in Franklin County. Kim has been with the agency several years.

d. Ted Lawson has been hired as manager of Little Ivy Group Home. He replaces Lela DeLoach who has moved from the area.

III. Regional Advocate's Report – Sherry Miles

a. Sharon Shepherd was not interviewed as a potential committee member due to the lack of a quorum. Sherry reported that she has sent an application to Nancy Davis to complete for committee membership. A tentative meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, to interview these potential members. Becky will make calls to see if she can get a quorum present. Sherry will not be available but will call Stanley Cousins at Southern Virginia to see if he would be available if Becky can get a quorum. If this is not possible, she will schedule another date.

b. Sherry distributed copies of the spring and summer editions of Human Writes, the

State Human Rights Committee Newsletter. The SHRC has asked for feedback on the newsletter and Sherry encouraged committee members to respond if they had any ideas that they would like to share.

c. FOIA Training – Sherry distributed a handout and provided the following training on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to the LHRC:

- A draft copy of minutes must be posted within 10 business days
- Approved minutes must indicate so within three business days
- Scheduled meetings must be posted along with a yearly meeting schedule
- Meetings must be open to the public
- Closed meetings must be held to discuss behavioral plans and to interview potential new LHRC members

d. Sherry reported that the revised Human Rights Regulations have been approved by the governor and will be effective September 20. “Blue Books” will not be available for a couple of months. She advised that the deadline for having Human Rights Policies updated will be in January 2008. Changes in the regulations are Significant enough to require that plans will probably have to be rewritten to allow for new regulations. A letter will be sent to each affiliate explaining the changes.

e. The SHRC training will be held in Richmond on September 13-14 at the Koger Center. This training is for LHRC committee members. Becky recently sent out information about the training and will assist LHRC in making arrangements should they decide to go. Committee members should let Becky know by August 21 if they want to go. A DVD will be made for affiliates to assist them in training their staff on the new regulations.

f. Sherry reported that she has not had any recent complaints in our region to investigation. This is a sign that everyone is doing a good job.

IV. Annual Affiliate Assessment – Becky Lovell

Becky reported that she has received checks from all the affiliate assessments except one, Wall Residences. A second notice has been sent.

VI. Other:

a. Chairman Aleen Wilson reported that she has received a request from Strategic Therapy Associates to discontinue their affiliation with the LHRC. They have closed their Franklin County office. Sherry will remove them from the roster.

b. Affiliate Reports:

1. Peggy Tunnell reported that Life Point, the company that now owns both the Martinsville and Danville hospitals, was considering moving all psychiatric services to the Danville hospital; however, a decision was recently made that services would continue to be available at Martinsville.

2. Becky received an email from Ashley Callahan of Didlake reporting that they have been open two years and have had no complaints. She has also met with PCS representatives and completed a presentation for their staff.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. James E. Rountree, Sr.