

**DRAFT
MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 12, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.
24 Clay Street - Martinsville, VA**

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

OTHERS ATTENDING: Lynda Edgehill (Goodwill), Donna Hodges (EHS), Carla Hodges (EHS), Jeannie Odachowski (Family Preservation Services), Bobbi Jo Seamster (National Counseling), Peggy Tunnell (Memorial Hospital), Will Childers and Jenny Mays (Hope Tree Family Services), Peggy Sue Ferguson, Cynthia M. Hairston, K. M. and Tammy McGeorge (guests), Sherry Miles (Regional Advocate) and Becky Lovell (Piedmont Community Services).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Potter and Sharon Shepherd

Chairman Aleen Wilson brought the meeting to order.

I. Executive Session

Executive Session

The motion was made and passed that the PCS LHRC go into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code 2.1-344 for the purpose of discussing next friend status on behalf of KM who is present today with staff and proposed next friend. This review necessarily involved discussion and consideration of records and information excluded from the Freedom of Information Act.

Upon reconvening in public session, the PCS LHRC unanimously certified that to the best of each Local Human Rights Committee member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in the Executive Session.

The motion was made and unanimously passed that next friend status is granted to the consumers' friend, CH.

II. Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session to interview a candidate for the vacancy on the PCS LHRC Committee. The motion was made and passed that the PCS LHRC go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.1-344 A (4 &15) for the purpose of interviewing for a member vacancy.

Upon reconvening in public session, the PCS LHRC unanimously certified that to the best of each Local Human Rights Committee member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in the Executive Session

The Committee unanimously passed a motion to nominate applicant, Peggy S. Ferguson for membership to PCS LHRC

III. Approval of Committee Minutes – Aleen Wilson

After reviewing the minutes for the May 13, 2008 meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve them as presented.

IV. CBS Activities – Becky Lovell

- a. Becky reported that PCS's new office in Franklin County is now open. A grand opening was held on June 9. The new location allows the location of all services under one roof. The future of the Court Street office has not yet been determined. She offered tours to anyone who would like to see the building.
- b. Wanda Jones Place has been relocated to a newly construction home on Maynor Street in Rocky Mount. This location has everything on one floor and serves six mentally retarded adults. The future of the Claiborne home has not yet been determined.
- c. Construction on the new Patrick County office is under way and the building is now under roof. The 6,500 sq. ft. facility is located on a 20-acre parcel in Patrick Springs, just off Route 58. The office is currently located at 100 Dobyans Road in Stuart. The anticipated move in date is in December.
- d. PCS has broken ground for a new group home in Martinsville. The home is located beside Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Church Street Extension and will serve six consumers. The plan is to close one of the group homes already in Martinsville and transfer four consumers from there to the new, one-story home. Becky reported that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church approached PCS about the possibility of constructing a group home on the property. They plan to have a outreach ministry for the consumers who live there. The anticipated move date is December 2008.

V. Regional Advocate's Report – Sherry Miles

- a. During the last LHRC meeting, the Committee discussed changing the membership from 9 members to 7 members and requested Sherry Miles update the by-laws to reflect this change. As requested, Sherry brought updated by-laws for the Committee's review. The Committee voted unanimously to forward the requested changes to the State Human Rights Committee for review and approval. Even with the decrease in membership, the Committee will have the appropriate composition and quorum will remain 4.
- b. Sherry reminded the providers that they should not leave consumers waiting in cars without a staff person present. She gave an example of problems this could cause and said that if a consumer wants to go somewhere and then changes their mind, you need to take the person back home or to their program and drop them off before you go. It is neglect to leave consumers unsupervised.
- c. Providers were reminded of the importance of documentation. Sherry advised them to document any preferences perceived as odd. An example given was if someone prefers odd food combinations. If this is not documented, it could appear that you don't have enough food and not that providers are accommodating a consumer based on their preferences.

IV. Provider Updates

- a. EHS Support Services reported that they serve 98 consumers and have 22 clients and 22 clinicians. They are in the process of hiring two more. They offer services in Franklin, Patrick and Henry counties, and in the City of Martinsville.
- b. Peggy Tunnell reported that Memorial Hospital's new owner, Life Point, plans to keep the psychiatric unit open. They work to keep people in the community and out of the state hospitals.
- c. Jeannie Odachowski reported that Family Preservation plans to open a new office on Starling Avenue in September. They offer therapeutic day treatment in Franklin and Patrick County schools. They plan to offer services in Martinsville City schools soon.
- d. Bobbie Jo Seamster reported that National Counselors has 11 sites in Virginia.
- e. Lynda Edgehill reported Goodwill serves 90 people in Franklin County. They also just got a wheelchairs bus that can also be made available to other community services. The van can accommodate two wheel chairs and 12 passengers.
- f. Will Childers of Hope Tree reported that they have 15 group homes in Virginia, with Horne Home for Adults being one of them. He also reported that they are looking for a group home manger for Horne Home due to the recent retirement of their manager.

VI. Other:

- a. Becky reported that she has received checks for assessments from everyone except the following:
 - (1) Goodwill of the Valley – They have sent a check that included funds for other services. The check did not come directly to Becky.
 - (2) National Counseling – Bobbie Jo Seamster reported that a check has been requested.
 - (3) EHS Support Services - Donna Hodges reported that a check has been requested.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 4:00 p.m. – 24 Clay Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. James E. Rountree, Sr.