

BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2009

The Blue Ridge Regional Human Rights Committee met Monday, October 5, 2009 at 3:30 PM at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, located at 3517 Brandon Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rebecca Baker – Chair
Geraldine Cleary
Nancy Fields
Jay Fields

DBHDS-OHR-STAFF

Nan Neese – Advocate

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Peters

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

Betsy Walker

AFFILIATES REPRESENTED

A Better Life Counseling – Shenetta Reid
A Shining Light – Dawn Laprad, Donnie DeGeorgio
Avenues to Recovery – Jody Anderson
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare – Tim Steller, Helen Lang, Betty Bingham
Blue Ridge Support Services – Julie Larson
Cee Breeze – Temeka Wallace, Emizie Abbott
CHIP – Ali Hamed-Moore
Family Service of Roanoke Valley – Vickie Haynie
Hall Community Services – Adrien Monti
Hope Tree Family Service – Linda Hammed
Intercept – John Weatherspoon, Harry Hogshead
Lamano Agency – Eric Gordon
Luthran Family Service – Gary Wilburn
Mayo Residential – Joseph Mayo
Minnick Education Center – Gary Wilburn
Mt Regis – Ronda Boutte, Betsy Cumbie
Support Services – Jennifer Gobble, Ashley Callahan, Denise Chockley

1. Call to order/welcome

Becky Baker, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

2. Introductions

Members of the committee and providers attending the meeting introduced themselves.

ACTION AGENDA

3. Approval of August 10, 2009 minutes

Gerri Cleary motioned the minutes of August 10, 2009 be accepted as presented; Jay Fields seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

4. **Advocate Report**

Nan Neese, Advocate expressed concern with the "Affiliation Agreement" that each provider signs when they become affiliated with the Human Rights Committee. The Agreement states that affiliates report annually to the Committee; if something occurs during the time before the reporting date the committee does not become aware of it until the reporting date.

A sub-committee meeting will be called before the next regularly scheduled meeting to revise the agreement and will state that there is the expectation if there is a citation or a human rights violation prior to the annual reporting date, the provider will notify the committee and appear at the next regularly scheduled meeting to report.

Nan reported the Office of Human Rights will not be replacing the position that was previously held by Adrien Monti and the office has also cut other staff; this is due to the budget cuts. At this time Nan will be covering from Covington to Martinsville, Roanoke and New River Valley.

5. **Hope Tree Family Services – Notification of a new group home in Salem – Linda Hammed**

Linda Hammed appeared before the committee to request that their Affiliation be extended to cover a new home that is in the final stages of construction. They should receive the Certificate of Occupancy in October at which time they will submit a request to the Department of Licensing to have the new location added to their current license. The process should be completed by the end of November and they will update the committee in December.

6. **Hall Community Services – Request for affiliation to be extended to cover Psychosocial Day Program – Adrien Monti**

Adrien Monti appeared before the committee to request the current affiliation be extended to cover a Psychosocial Day Program. She gave an

overview of the services that would be offered and submitted a written copy of their mission, goals and admission criteria.

Jay Fields motioned the affiliation be extended to cover the new program and Geri Cleary seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. **Intercept – Notification to extend their affiliation to provide Day Treatment Services at Noel C. Taylor Academy located in Roanoke City.**

John Weatherspoon attended the meeting to request extending their affiliation to cover day treatment services. They have been invited to provide these services at Noel C. Taylor Academy. John provided an overview of the services they will provide and the population.

Geri Cleary motioned the affiliation be extended and Nancy Fields seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. **Family Preservation Services – Notice of Intent to add Therapeutic Day Treatment sites – Ann Minnix – Regional Director**

Ms. Minnix submitted letters of notification of the intent to begin Therapeutic Day Treatment at the following sites;

Rocky Mount Elementary School, 465 Truman Hill Road, Hardy, VA 24101
Fort Lewis Elementary School, 3115 West Main Street, Salem, VA 24153
Franklin County High School, 700 Tanyard Rd., Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Callaway Elementary School, 8451 Callaway road, Callaway, VA 24067

The license they currently hold covers these services.

9. **Support Systems, LLC – Request to have BR RHRC oversee coverage of services provided in Lynchburg (Lynchburg LHRC is not longer accepting affiliates) – Jennifer Gobble**

Jennifer Gobble reported her agency had been volunteering services at the Salvation Army Shelter in Lynchburg and had received a request to provide mental health support services there under their current license. She reported she has requested affiliation with the human rights committee in Lynchburg, however they are not accepting affiliates at this time and are in the process of trying to start a new committee. Jennifer is requesting BR RHRC to extend coverage to that area until a new committee is formed and they can become affiliated with that committee

Nan reported that only the State Committee can determine the regions of LHRC coverage and encouraged the Committee not to provide coverage.

Due to these circumstances BR RHRC will not provide coverage for services in the Lynchburg area.

Nan noted the services that Support Systems had been providing were not volunteer services and a citation had been issued by the department of licensing for providing services without an affiliation.

10. **Annual Reports**

A Better Life Counseling – Shenetta Reid appeared to present her annual report and gave an overview of the services they provide and the population they serve. At this time they are serving 22 clients; they have received no citations.

A Shining Light, Inc. – Dawn Laprad appeared before the committee to present her annual report. They did not begin providing services until November of 2008; they now serve five clients with capacity for seven.

A serious incident occurred in the facility on April 20, 2009; licensing visited the site and several citations were issued for lack of supervision. Ms. Laprad reported the corrective action that has been taken and answered all questions from the committee members. A written report was provided for committee members.

Blue Ridge Support Services - Julie Larson attended the meeting to present the annual report for mental health supports. She gave a brief overview of the services they provide. They have received no citations. It was noted that mental health supports is separate from the residential program; however all licenses should present annual reports at the same time. Betsy will check the 2010 reporting schedule to make sure they are scheduled for the same time.

Intercept youth Services – Harry Hogshead appeared before the committee to present the annual report. He reported there were two incidents that occurred in December that were not reported due to his lack of understanding reporting rules. This issue will be discussed in closed session.

The Madeline Center - No information has been received. Geri Cleary made a motion to end the affiliation of the Madeline Center; Nancy Fields seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Nan will send notification that their affiliation has been ended.

11. **Other Business**

There has been a request from a client to extend the complaint process time period to October 14 due to illness.

The motion was made to extend the time period; the motion was seconded and it carried unanimously.

The Lamano Agency is attending the meeting today and has brought forth a request for a Sponsored Provider under the Lamano Agency license in Roanoke. Greg Hancock will be providing the service, but he has not yet received an individual for placement.

There is also notification that David Brooks that currently provides Sponsored Provider Services under the Lamano Agency license has relocated.

Nan requested an accounting of funds be distributed to providers by the end of the year and decide if fees should be suspended for a year. There is a sub-committee coming up in November and this will be discussed at that time and a report will go out for the December meeting.

Nan reported there are still difficulties with recruiting and requested providers to recruit on behalf of the committee.

Nancy Fields: "I move that the BR RHRC convene into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2.3711.A (4 & 15) of the Code of VA to protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business including the review and consideration of health records, namely to review allegations of abuse."

Geri Cleary: "I move to certify that to the best of my knowledge only those matters lawfully exempted from public business and identified in the motion were heard, discussed and considered by the BR RHRC."

Each member responded, "I so certify."

12. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2009.

Rebecca Baker, Chair

Date approved

Betsy Walker, Admin Support