

# **BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2006**

The Blue Ridge Regional Human Rights Committee met Monday, August 14, 2006 at 3:30 PM in the Community Room at The Burrell Center at 611 McDowell Avenue.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lynn Lawson  
Millie Willis  
Josephine Wesselhoft

## **ADMIN SUPPORT**

Betsy Walker

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rebecca Baker  
Christene Montgomery  
Lydia Barlow  
Geraldine Cleary  
Dr. Annemarie Carroll

## **REGIONAL ADVOCATE**

Sonia Smith, Office of Human Rights

## **AFFILIATES REPRESENTED**

Alleghany Highlands – Betty Crance  
Avenues to Recovery – Wren Starkey  
Blue Ridge Residential Services – Richard Gilman  
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare – Betty Bingham  
CHIP – Doreen Davis  
EHS Support Services – Jennifer Gobble  
Family Services of Roanoke – Cheri Hartman, Shannon Raybuck  
Family Preservation – Carla Warner  
Lamano Agency – Juli Larson, Diane Exner  
Mayo Residential – Edna Vernon  
National Counseling Services – Sam Gray  
Roanoke League of Therapists – Gail Paysour  
Strategic Therapy Association – Diane Spanich  
Total Life Counseling – Keith McCurdy  
Virginia Baptists Children’s Home Family Service – Jenny Mays

## **AGENDA**

See attached

## **MINUTES**

1. Lynn Lawson, acting Chair called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM; committee members and attending affiliates introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of minutes of June 12, 2006**

Minutes of June 12 cannot be approved due to the lack of quorum. The minutes were reviewed and Millie Willis motioned the minute be accepted as written, Josephine Wesselhoft seconded the motion, the minutes will be brought back to the next meeting (August 14) for approval.

3. **Annual Reports**

**Avenues to Recovery** – Wren Starkey presented the annual report and reported there a new program for adolescents; she gave an overview of the service. Sonia Smith, Advocate informed Ms. Wren she would not be required to report the activities of the new services, as the Department does not license it.

**Family Services of Roanoke Valley** – Cheri Hartman introduced Shannon Raybuck a new member of their staff. Cheri presented the annual report and gave an overview of their programs.

**Blue Ridge Residential** – Richard Gilman presented the report and gave an overview of the service they provide. At this time they provide services to one person in this area.

**EHS** – Jennifer Gobble presented the report. She reports the program is growing quickly. They are serving approximately 150 clients at this time and are serving New River Valley clients out of the Roanoke office at this time.

**Lamano Agency** – Juli Larson presented the annual report and gave an overview of their services. They have 3 sponsored homes in the Roanoke area at this time servicing 4 cases and have lots of referrals.

**National Counseling Group** – Sam Gray presented the report and gave an overview of the company. He reported the Roanoke office would begin Sex Offender Treatment and Substance Abuse Treatment in the near future; they have hired Dr. Rex Miller to head up the statewide Sex Offender program. The Roanoke office has 15 full time therapists.

**Roanoke League of Therapists** – Gail Paysour presented the annual report. She reports there has been a change in licensing and are expanding. They have 30 clients in the Roanoke Intensive In-Home services.

**Strategic Therapy Associated** – Deborah Spanich presented the report. They provide In-Home Services in the Roanoke, Chatham, and Lynchburg area.

**Total Life Counseling, Inc** – Keith McCurdy presented the Annual Report and gave an overview of the services. There are no changes to services. He distributed brochures.

#### DISCUSSION AGENDA

4. **Advocate Report**

Sonia Smith, Advocate has prepared a 2007 annual reporting calendar and a 2007 meeting schedule and it was distributed.

Sonia disturbed a copy of the “Human Writes” newsletter.

Sonia reported the seminar that had been planned for September by the State Human Rights Committee has been moved to the spring.

There has not been a formal announcement, but the new regulations will be coming out soon for public hearings across the state.

There is one vacancy on the committee and there has been one application, however the person applying could not attend today.

5. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Betsy Walker

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed