

CRATER LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Petersburg, VA 23803

I. Call to Order: The Crater Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) held their regular meeting Thursday, March 13, 2008 at John Randolph Medical Center (JRMC), 411 W. Randolph Road, Hopewell, Virginia. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Mrs. Gittman thanked Ms. Butler and Ms. Burgess for hosting the meeting.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Carol Gittman, Chair
Joseph P. Dickens
Jean Grim
Rosa Parham - Absent
Mable Jones
Pamela A. Waitkus

Human Rights Advocate Representation:

Beverly Garnes

Affiliates' Attendance:

Adult Activity Services – James R. Scott, III
Agapé Unlimited I, Inc. – Marilyn C. Newby
Agapé Unlimited II – Beatrice I. Johnson
ARC-Petersburg – Felicia Daniels
Benchmark Residential Services – Clarence E. Dilworth
Dan-Poe-Dil, Inc. – Clarence E. Dilworth
District 19 CSB – Jocelyn Hamilton
John Randolph Medical Center – Serressa A. Burgess
Kathy Butler
Low Ground Visions, Inc. – Chanda S. Batts
New Beginnings, Inc. – Marilyn C. Newby
Phoenix-n-Peace, Inc. – Patricia B. Tucker
Dorothy C. Ragsdale
Pryor House – Joyce Brown
Southside Regional Medical Center – Inpatient Services, Keith Gostel
Outpatient Services, Keith Gostel
T'LAB, Inc. – Janine Johnson
Visions Family Services – Dr. D. B. Malone
Jennifer Kogut

III. Public Comments: None

IV. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting were approved. Beverly Garnes requested a change to the January 10th minutes. She would like for “Regional Advocate Representation” on page 1 to be changed to “Human Rights Advocate Representation”. Jennifer Kogut noted that the January 10th meeting was not held at 408 South Sycamore Street (Visions). This should be changed to D19. January 10, 2008 minutes with changes were approved

V. Advocate’s Comments:

Beverly Garnes reported that three providers belonging to the Crater LHRC have not submitted their revised policies and procedures to reflect the changes in the Human Rights Regulations. These providers should call Margaret Walsh to request an extension and the policies and procedures need to be submitted to Jim Bowser as soon as possible. James Scott with Adult Activity Services said that he was not aware that he had to submit the revised policies and procedures and he doesn’t want this to reflect poorly on his program. Beverly Garnes said that initially providers were not going to have to submit their revised policies and procedures, but then some Advocates didn’t feel comfortable not having copies at their offices, so Ms. Walsh went back to requiring them. Beverly Garnes agreed to write a letter on behalf of the three providers who had not submitted their policies and procedures given that there was confusion over this.

VI. Old Business:

A. Mrs. Gittman has received the JRMC’s Affiliate’s Agreement. They had submitted the agreement on August 1, 2007, but the agreement was misplaced and neither Mrs. Gittman nor District 19 Community Services Board had received a copy. This matter has been straightened out now. Mrs. Gittman has a blank Affiliate Agreement for Benchmark Residential Services to complete.

B. Ms. Gittman was pleased with committee members’ attendance at tonight’s meeting. The LHRC bylaws regarding committee member attendance was reviewed. There is a vacancy on the committee. This vacancy needs to be filled by a consumer because 1/3 of the committee has to be consumers or consumer family members. A consumer is defined as anyone who has received MH/MR/SA services within five years of their appointment to the LHRC. Beverly Garnes reported that she has a potential candidate for this position. She is waiting for the application to be returned and then she will submit it to the LHRC for review.

C. Ms. Gittman gave an update on committee member Rosa Parham. Ms. Parham has missed the last two meetings. Ms. Parham is currently in Southside Regional Medical Center and she’s very ill after suffering a stroke. Ms. Gittman is trying

to contact her husband.

- D.** Ms. Gittman reminded everyone that the Human Rights Newsletter which comes out quarterly can be found on the Office of Human Rights website. She thinks it would be good for the Crater LHRC to submit information to go into the newsletter as previously suggested by Pamela Waitkus.

VII. New Business

- A.** Dorothy Ragsdale requested affiliation for Hope Intensive In-home Services. This program will fall under the umbrella of Phoenix-N-Peace. Ms. Ragsdale reported that the program will serve individuals who are at risk of being institutionalized or at risk of being removed from their home. Their staff will work with the individual and their family, will strengthen the family, do problem-solving, offer play therapy, and family groups. They will also offer 24-hour a day crisis services. They will serve individuals ages 4-21 who live in Petersburg, Mecklenburg County, Northern VA, and the Tidewater area. All of the committee members were in favor of the affiliation and it was approved.
- B.** Beatrice Johnson of Family Resolution Services also requested affiliation. She reported that her program is very similar to the above mentioned program, except they will serve individuals ages 5-18 living in the state of Virginia. All of their counselors will have a master's degree, a bachelor's degree, or have four years experience working with this population. Pamela Waitkus expressed concerns regarding her staffs' credentials to be providing family therapy. Ms. Johnson reported that her agency is going to contract out services which they do not have the expertise to provide. All of the committee members were in favor of the affiliation and it was approved.
- C.** Ms. Gittman reported that another program is requesting affiliation, but that program is not represented tonight.
- D.** Clarence Dilworth asked Beverly Garnes a question about the Human Rights Regulations. His question was in regards to investigating abuse. He asked if in his investigation, he finds that an allegation of abuse is unfounded, can he allow his staff to return to work before Department of Social Services's (DSS) investigation is complete. He reported that DSS's investigation and response can take much longer than his. Beverly Garnes thinks that it would be okay to allow the staff to return to work before DSS's investigation is complete, but she will look into this matter.
- E.** Marilyn Newby opened discussion about consumers' right to engage in sexual behaviors. Beverly Garnes stated that providers can't say to consumers that it's

okay for them to have sex, but providers do have a duty to provide education to consumers about the risks and benefits of engaging in sexual behaviors. Beverly Garnes reminded the group that if a provider develops policies and procedures regarding sexual behaviors, they need to be submitted to the LHRC for review.

- F. Jennifer Kogut went to an investigation training that she found helpful. The training is offered by Full Potential Consulting and Training (757) 361-5835. The cost is \$99.

VIII. Affiliates' Reports: Affiliates reported complaints and allegations to the Committee.

IX. Other Actions: None

X. Adjournment:

- A. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:40 p.m.

_____/s/_____
Carol Gittman, Chair (Date)