

**Fairfax-Falls Church Local Human Rights Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Pennino Building / Human Services Center  
12011 Government Center Parkway  
Room 836A

***Committee Members in Attendance:*** Loretta Redelman (Chair), Judy Regner, Ron Lambert, Chris Harrison

***Others in Attendance:*** Susie Guido (Alternative House), Lisa Morgan (ICON), Dawn Gipson (ICON), Lewis Wood (Platinum Healthcare), Jane Wilder (ETRON), NKenya Lassiter (Brain Injury Services), Tim Simmons (Human Rights Advocate), Diane Larkin (LHRC Support), Lisa Blecker (LHRC Support)

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. The March 12th minutes were approved as amended with one abstention. Diane Larkin was introduced and will be the new administrative support for the committee.

**I. Annual Summary**

A summary of the annual human rights activities was presented by four affiliates: ICON Community Services, Platinum Healthcare, Alternative House, and ETRON Systems. The committee requested that ICON submit a revised annual report to the LHRC, that Alternative House submit their revised policies and procedures for human rights and program rules by the next meeting, and that ETRON research and get back to the advocate whether one case of abuse was submitted to the Office of Human Rights. The LHRC also expressed interest in visiting Platinum Healthcare.

**II. Research**

NKenya Lassiter from Brain Injury Services presented a research study on Self-Awareness and Recovery. The committee requested information on how long the information is to be kept, how it will be destroyed, and a recommendation to be more specific on who will have access to the information and what will be gained from this research. The committee will vote whether or not to approve this study at the May meeting pending the response to the above questions.

**III. Restrictive Plan Discussion**

A motion was made, seconded and voted on to move into Executive Session to review client issues at 3:00 p.m. and the committee came out of Executive Session at 3:50 p.m. Ten quarterlies were reviewed and approved for three months. Recommendations included for one person to clarify why staff aren't following the protocols consistently and a recommendation for staff training to ensure consistency. The committee also requested clarification on the difference between leaving the designated area and elopement. The LHRC also expressed concern over a family member discontinuing medications which has resulted in an

increase of behavioral issues. The advocate will follow up to address human rights concerns.

#### **IV. Advocate's Report**

Tim Simmons distributed the new Human Rights manuals to the LHRC members. He mentioned that of the 100+ providers, only 46 policies and procedures were submitted to the regional advocate. Margaret Walsh sent out letters to providers who are out of compliance.

Tim also mentioned that there was a breach of confidentiality within the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB. Their system picked up the breach and the CSB did an investigation and is taking measures to improve security.

An application for a prospective new member was received and an interview with the applicant will be set up. DMHMRSAS employees are now able to serve on LHRC's as long as they are not affiliated with that LHRC.

#### **V. Committee Business Session**

The committee reviewed Gabriel's safety plan. The committee also reviewed the LHRC expenditures from 2007. A draft of the 2008 affiliation letter and agreement was presented and will be amended according to the recommendations of the committee. The affiliation fees will begin covering the fiscal year rather than the calendar year.

The committee discussed accepting nominations for officers to occur at the May meeting. Due to recent vacancies, an ad will be placed to solicit additional applicants for the LHRC. Loretta Redelman requested that Blue Ridge Residential Services be invited back to the May meeting to discuss more their use of medical and protective restraints.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for: **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 836 A of the Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax County Government Center Complex.