

GOOCHLAND POWHATAN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

**Special Meeting: March 2, 2010**

**Powhatan Office, GPCS**

**LHRC Members:**

**Present:**

Gwen Hagen, Chair  
Ruth Levine  
Brad Burdette  
Walter Reeves

**Human Rights Advocate**

Sherry Miles

**Affiliates: Present:**

Scott Cook            Hallmark Youthcare  
Charles Hodges      Hallmark Youthcare  
Randy Camden        Goochland Powhatan Community services

- I.     The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. The special Meeting was held to consider a request for variance by Hallmark Youthcare.
  
- II.    Sherry Miles explained to the LHRC members and affiliates present the definition of a variance and the process by which a request for variance is made.
  
- III.   Scott Cook stated that Hallmark Youthcare is formally applying for a variance to the Human Rights regulation that addresses Dignity and Privacy of residents (12VAC 35-115-50). The variance would be to allow for video monitoring in the resident's room specifically for the STOP Program to treat Sexually Offending Youth. This program was recently approved for affiliation at the January 26, 2010 LHRC meeting. Approval for the variance is essential for the effective implementation of the STOP Program and to aid in the effective treatment of residents admitted for treatment.

The request is for a blanket variance, with no specific time limit proposed, as the process will remain in effect as long as the program is in operation.

Mr. Cook stated the Hallmark STOP Program would utilize a combination of constant room monitoring via cameras and motion

detectors, excluding bathroom and changing areas, to augment regular staff visual checks.

Mr. Cook introduced Charles Hodges, LCSW, CSTOP with whom Hallmark has contracted for assistance in development and oversight of the program. Mr. Cook and Mr. Hughes continued in the description of the STOP Program and answered several questions that had been raised by Margaret Walsh, Virginia Human Rights Director.

Types of equipment used:

Two classes of equipment being used for safety: camera in each of the resident's rooms, hallways, group rooms, common area, and time out rooms. Private areas will be available for residents to change clothes and perform personal hygiene tasks in their bathrooms.

There will be "curtain" style motion detectors between each bed in rooms with more than one resident.

Visibility of equipment:

All equipment will be visible to residents, minus the monitor. The monitor will be in a separate room that does not provide viewing access to residents or the general public. There is not attempt to hide the equipment or its purpose.

Monitoring of live images and by whom:

A staff member, specifically trained to work with this population, will view the images on the monitor in a room off the unit. No access will be provided to anyone not directly working with the population.

Keeping and storing the tapes and access by whom:

There are no tapes, but the images will be stored for a period of 7 days in a secure hard drive system located in a room off the unit, then automatically deleted. The system, involving storage and playback of images will be stored in a locked cabinet. Only the Human Rights Representative and selected Administrative staff will have access to the locked controls and stored images.

Plan for obtaining any type of consent:

A consent will be both reviewed and signed with both resident and guardian at the time of admission.

Mr. Hodges stated that there will be two participants in a room, typically. The ability to have a roommate will be earned by successful completion of portions of the treatment program. He stated that a participant is not ready to leave treatment if he cannot control behavior while in treatment.

The STOP Program is 9-12 months in duration, followed by discharge into the community. There will be specific follow-up treatment. A

portion of this will be specific education of the family and community supports.

STOP will be a self-contained unit, occupying an 8-bed pod. There will be 3 staff on the unit 24/7. One of the staff will be monitoring and walky-talkies will be in use.

Each of the bedrooms has its own bathroom, the door to which will remain cracked. Bed checks will be done.

**ACTION: Following the presentation and subsequent discussion, the motion was made by Brad Burdette, seconded by Walter Reeves for the approval of the requested variance. By unanimous vote, the request by Hallmark Youthcare for a variance was approved.**

Sherry Miles requested that Hallmark needs to revise this request, to include the floor plan of the unit. Included in this revision needs to be the statement that a review of this variance will be presented to both the LHRC and SHRC.

Having no further business, the Special Meeting of the Goochland Powhatan Local Human Rights Committee was adjourned. At 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph C. Camden, Jr. M.Ed  
Day Support & Prevention Director  
Goochland Powhatan Community Services