

Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Meeting

February 27, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Copeland at 10:10 AM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

Quorum present: Mary Baylor, Marilyn Copeland, and Sara Flippens.
Quorum absent: Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, LHRC Chairman.

Human Rights Advocate, DMHMRSAS, present: Gianna Mitchell.

Affiliate Representatives: Gilbert Hernandez, Jr., Community Services of Virginia, Inc.; Phil Black, Didlake, Inc.; Joan Whitted, Emerson Place, Inc.; Rodney Hawkins & Victor Moody, Evolve, LLC; Jeffrey Moore & Juanita Austin, Family Redirection Institute, Inc.; Rodney Hawkins & Victor Moody, G.R.A.C.E., Inc.; Rita Fisher, James Bentley Treatment Program; Kimberly Davis & Marquette Frierson, Northwestern Human Services, Inc.; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Behavioral Health Services; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services; Arlethea Evans, Tranquility Manor, LLC; and Cynthia Whitehead, Unique Friends, LLC.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting held 11/28/07 were approved as written and forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director.

A hard copy of the minutes will be mailed to Reginald Daye, Regional Advocate.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Competency-based training is required annually.

There is currently one vacancy for a committee member on this LHRC. The vacancy is for a consumer that has received services within the past five (5) years. Gianna Mitchell stressed the importance of filling the vacancy, and suggested placing an ad for both a health care provider and a consumer of services. She has the applications for interested candidates.

The minutes approved at the current meeting will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, to be posted on the state website (margaret.walsh@co.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov) within three (3) business days. A draft of the current minutes will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh for posting on the website within ten (10) business days of the Committee meeting. The “Freedom of Information Act” mandates that all service providers post at each of their sites the date, time, and location of all scheduled LHRC meetings. This posting will include a list of all meetings scheduled for the remaining year (5/28/08, 8/27/08, 11/26/08, and 2/25/09).

A reminder was provided to affiliates of their responsibility to notify the Office of Human Rights in writing when intending to open a new group home or expand a new program. The Office of Human Rights will determine whether new policies are required. Policies and procedures must be approved before they can be presented to the LHRC.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Gianna Mitchell encouraged members and providers to look at the revised Human Rights regulations at <http://dmhmrsas.virginia.gov/OHR-default.htm#revised>. The revised Human Rights regulations were mailed to the LHRC members. A DVD with all the revisions was mailed to each of the providers. All providers must be in compliance by 12/1/07. All policies and procedures must reflect the revisions, and a letter sent to Margaret Walsh (and copied to Mr. Daye) certifying that they’ve been changed to comply with the revised regulations by 3/1/08. A copy of all policies and procedures must be in the office by 3/1/08. (Send paper copies for now.) The Office of Human Rights will do unannounced site visits.

Gianna stated that all complaints (both formal and informal) must now be reported. The complaint report forms must reflect whether the individual chose the formal or the informal process (indicate on the top of the form). Providers have 5 days to resolve informal complaints and 10 days to submit a written preliminary decision for formal complaints. If the individual disagrees with the provider’s preliminary decision they have 5 days to express this in writing. The director is then required to investigate further and submit their final decision to the individual and the human rights advocate within 5 days. Providers must show that the consumer was offered resolution and whether or not it was accepted. If it was not accepted, providers must show that the consumer was offered the opportunity to appeal the decision. An investigation must contain a conclusion. Serious incidents also need to be reported, but don’t require a special form. Abuse/neglect is different from a complaint.

Gianna reminded providers that the annual seclusion and restraints report is due to the Office of Human Rights by 1/15/08.

The annual volunteer luncheon will be held on April 1, 2008.
Applications need to be submitted by March 14, 2008.

The role of making LHRC meeting reminder/notification calls is rotated among all the affiliates. Unique Friends, LLC is responsible for notifying affiliates and committee members of the LHRC meeting scheduled for 5/28/08.

Bill Miller, currently managing the finances, reported a balance of \$2,738 as of 2/27/08.

VI. NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTING AFFILIATION:

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. requested permanent affiliation for a new group home that mirrors the services they currently provide. The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation for the new group home.

Emerson Place, Inc. requested a renewal of their temporary affiliation for supportive/in-home services. The Committee voted and approved to continue their temporary affiliation for supportive/in-home services.

EVOLVE, LLC requested permanent affiliation for intensive in-home services for child and adolescents 5-21 years of age. The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation for the new entity.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. requested a renewal of their temporary affiliation for an additional group home and day support program. The Committee voted and approved to continue temporary affiliation for the additional home and day support program.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS:

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. – 71 consumers (17 are receiving in-home services, 17 in day support programs, and 37 are group home residents). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

Didlake, Inc. – 28 individuals are in day support, and 4 are receiving in-home residential support. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

Emerson Place, Inc. – 3 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. A progress report of an approved behavioral plan that includes the use of a protective device must be

presented to the LHRC at each quarterly meeting. The S/R report was submitted.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. – 131 in-home counseling consumers (58 in Portsmouth and 73 in Newport News). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. – 11 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

James Bentley Treatment Program – 3 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. It is not known whether the S/R report was submitted.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. – 21 individuals are in residential support, and 0 are receiving in-home services. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported, but one serious injury was reported. The S/R report was submitted.

Sentara Mental Health Services – 15 inpatients. One restraint was reported, but no complaints, abuse, or seclusion were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services – 28 outpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report was submitted.

Tranquility Manor, LLC – 13 residential consumers, and 18 day support consumers (between the three facilities). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. It is not known whether the S/R report was submitted.

Unique Friends, LLC – 0 consumers are in residential support, and 1 is receiving in-home services (operating on a provisional license). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints were reported. The S/R report has not been submitted.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an update regarding a previous allegation of abuse at Community Services of Virginia, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the update regarding a previous allegation of abuse. The Committee recommended that Community Services of Virginia, Inc. require all staff involved in the abuse allegation to be retrained in Human Rights.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a behavior plan submitted by Emerson Place, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the behavior plan. The Committee recommended that Emerson Place, Inc. continue the

current behavior plan, but consult a behavior specialist to monitor and tract the frequency of the behaviors and look at antecedents.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a serious injury at Northwestern Human Services, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the serious injury. The Committee had no further recommendations for Northwestern Human Services, Inc.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a restraint at Sentara Behavioral Health Services. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the restraint. The Committee had no further recommendations for Sentara Behavioral Health Services.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 9:30 AM sharp at Family Redirection Institute, Inc., 3401 County Street, Portsmouth, VA 23707 (757-398-0200).

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Stinespring, RNC
LHRC Program Support Liaison

Dr. Roderick Hawthorne
LHRC Chairman