

Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Meeting

May 30, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hawthorne at 9:30 AM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Quorum absent: Wanda Ward.

Human Rights Advocate, DMHMRSAS, present: Gianna Mitchell.

Affiliate Representatives: Phil Black, Commonwealth Support Systems; Gilbert Hernandez, Jr., Community Services of Virginia, Inc.; Joan Whitted, Emerson Place, Inc.; Juanita Austin, Family Redirection Institute, Inc.; Ethel Heyward, G.R.A.C.E., Inc.; Rita Fisher & Travis Jordan, James Bentley Treatment Program; Kimberly Davis, Northwestern Human Services, Inc.; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Behavioral Health Services; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services; Makeisha Jackson, Tranquility Manor, LLC; and Cynthia Whitehead & Brenda Champ, Unique Friends, LLC.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting held 2/28/07 were approved as written (with the addition that Tranquility Manor, LLC had requested and been granted temporary affiliation for an additional residential group home) and forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, on 6/7/07.

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

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

The Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) conference will be scheduled during the fall of 2007 (dates and location to be determined).

Competency-based training is required annually. Expect unannounced site visits.

There are no vacancies for committee members on this LHRC.

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 (8/15/07, 11/28/07, and 2/27/08).

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. The Office of Human Rights will determine whether new policies are required. This must be established prior to presenting a request to the LHRC.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

The role of making LHRC meeting reminder/notification calls is rotated among all the affiliates. Northwestern Human Services, Inc. is responsible for notifying affiliates and committee members of the LHRC meeting scheduled for 8/15/07.

Bill Miller, currently managing the finances, reported a balance of \$2,193 as of 5/30/07.

VI. NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTING AFFILIATION:

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.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. requested a renewal of their temporary affiliation for their children's group home in Hampton as well as their substance abuse services in both locations. The Committee voted and approved to continue temporary affiliation for the group home in Hampton and substance abuse services in both locations.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. requested permanent affiliation for an additional group home in Hampton (for adults). The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation for the additional group home.

James Bentley Treatment Program requested a renewal of their temporary affiliation for the Haven House for Girls (a residential program for 12-17 year old females with behavioral issues, which mirrors the current program for adolescent males). The Committee voted and approved to continue temporary affiliation for the adolescent female residential program.

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.

Tranquility Manor, LLC requested permanent affiliation for an additional residential group home which mirrors their current residential coed facilities. The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation for the additional group home.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS:

Commonwealth Support Systems – 27 individuals are in day support, and 5 are receiving in-home residential support. One restraint was reported, but no complaints, abuse, or seclusion were reported.

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. – 81 consumers (33 are receiving in-home services, 16 in day support programs, and 32 are group home residents). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

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.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. – 93 in-home counseling consumers (38 in Portsmouth and 55 in Newport News). One restraint was reported, but no complaints, abuse, or seclusion were reported.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. – 9 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. A third facility was licensed on 3/1/07.

James Bentley Treatment Program – 4 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. – 22 individuals are in residential support, and 0 are receiving in-home services. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse, two incidents of peer-to-peer abuse, and a death of natural causes were reported.

Sentara Mental Health Services – 26 inpatients. One restraint was reported, but no complaints, abuse, or seclusion were reported.

Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services – 19 outpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Tranquility Manor, LLC – 13 residential consumers, and 16 day support consumers (between the three facilities). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Unique Friends, LLC – 0 consumers are in residential support, and 1 is receiving in-home services. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse was reported.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a restraint at Commonwealth Support Systems.

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 Commonwealth Support Systems.

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 with the behavior plan as currently written.

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a restraint at Family Redirection Institute, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the restraint. The Committee recommended that Family Redirection Institute, Inc. have the client assessed for a neurological examination to rule out seizure activity, and that the agency insure all required documentation was present.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an allegation of abuse and two incidents of peer-to-peer abuse 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 allegation of abuse and the two incidents of peer-to-peer abuse. The Committee recommended that Northwestern Human Services, Inc. produce a copy of their policy for transportation of patients in personal vehicles. The Committee had no further recommendations regarding the two incidents of peer-to-peer abuse.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an allegation of abuse at Unique Friends, LLC. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified

that the only thing discussed in closed session was the allegation of abuse. The Committee recommended that in the future Unique Friends, LLC document all bruises and injuries (including pictures of same) and educate staff regarding the requirements for reporting all such incidents to the Office of Human Rights within 24 hours.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 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