

**HANOVER LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

DATE: March 6, 2007

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Elizabeth Harrel, Paula Smith, Dr. Al Watts,
Charlene Leahy, and Sharon Taylor
Human Rights Advocate: Beverly Garnes, DMHMRSAS
Affiliate Members: Nichelle Cooper, Ascending Dove Care Facility, Inc.
Sheila Lewis, Creative Family Solutions, Inc.
Recco Greenhow, Dimension Youth Services Inc.
John Barrett, Fidura & Associates, Inc.
Tina Dunn and Dorothy Shepherd, Hanover Adult Center
Ron Lucas, Hanover Community Services
Larry Wilson, Richmond Residential Services
Barbara Riggins, Riggins Residential
Ed Bowman, Virginia Baptist Children's Home
Leavelle Cox, Veldot Residential
Absent: Barbara Riggins, Riggins Residential, Affiliate
Guest: Mark Sims, Chief Operating Officer, S.H.I.E.L.D. Residential Services,
Inc.

WELCOME: Elizabeth Harrel called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending.

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting stand approved as submitted.

II. OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Beverly Garnes, Human Rights Advocate, reported that comments on the proposed regulations will be reviewed by Department to determine what changes will be made and the final approval may be completed sometime in the Fall of 2007.

There will be a State Human Rights Committee meeting Friday, March 9, 2007 at the Goochland-Powhatan CSB office and it will begin at 10:15 a.m.

The State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board will hold a volunteer Recognition Luncheon to recognize LHRC's on April 3, 2007, 12 noon at the Stonewall Jackson Conference Center, 24 South Market Street, Staunton, Virginia.

III. Affiliate Reports:

a. Ascending Dove Residential Care : Nichelle Cooper reported there were no allegations of human rights violations. There were two program changes during the quarter. Two clients were admitted at the second home, one on 11/20/06 and one on 2/7/07. A client was discharged on 2/8/07 from the second home and a client discharged on 12/22/06 from location #1.

b. Creative Family Solutions: Shelia Lewis reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations for the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.

c. Dimension Youth Services: Torecco Greenhow reported that there were no allegations of human rights violation during the quarter and there were no program changes.

d. Fidura & Associates, Inc.: John Barrett reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations for the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.

- e. **Hanover Adult Center:** Tina S. Dunn reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There were program changes during the quarter. The facility let two of their staff go and are in the process of hiring for these positions now. No audit was conducted during the quarter.
- f. **Hanover Community Services:** Ron Lucas reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter and no program changes during the quarter.
- g. **Richmond Residential Services, Inc.:** Elizabeth Poe submitted a report given by Larry Wilson. There were no reported allegations of human rights violations during the quarter and there were two program changes during the quarter. Larry Wilson was hired as Program Director. On February 22, the Boatswain Group Home was closed and all clients and staff were moved to the Willow Road Group Home. The move was conducted in collaboration with the Hanover CSB. No consumers lost services and all staff were maintained as employees. Some consumers were moved, with their families consent, to other vacant beds within RRSI.
- h. **Riggins Residential:** No representation. Report submitted on 03/09/07. Barbara Riggins reported no allegations of human rights violations for the quarter. There were program changes during the quarter. Lead Residential Counselor left organization. A Lead Residential Counselor was hired. We hired two residential counselors. One residential counselor was terminated. A new resident moved into the Stonemeadow location.
- i. **VELDOT Residential Services:** A. Leavelle Cox reported no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There was one program change during the quarter. On March 1st two residents were transferred from Middle Penninsula CSB to Chesterfield Co. CSB.
- j. **Virginia Baptist Children's Home & Family Services – DDM:** Ed Bowman reported that a resident stated to the Director at his day program that he was told that he had to change to a new program. An investigation was conducted. The complaint was resolved to the resident's satisfaction and no further action was taken. There were no allegations of abuse or neglect during the quarter. There was no program changes during the quarter.

The chairperson reminded the affiliates of their responsibility to attend all of the LHRC meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A letter was submitted from Mark Sims, Chief Operating Officer, S.H.I.E.L.D. Residential Services, Inc. regarding the establishment of an adult group home in the Richmond area. Services would include clients that have a primary diagnosis of mental retardation and a secondary diagnosis of mental illness with an I.Q. of 70 or below. They provide specialized healthcare, individualized education and leadership development.

Mr. Sims, was in attendance and stated that his organization was in compliance with the Human Rights Regulations and would like to request affiliation with the Hanover LHRC.

The committee voted to accept S.H.I.E.L.D. Residential Services, Inc. as an affiliate. Mr. Sims needs to submit S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Residential Services, Inc., policies and procedures to the LHRC for review and/or recommendations to be fully in compliance with the human rights regulations at the next LHRC meeting.

The Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services is in the process of opening another group home in the Bon Air section of Chesterfield County and would like to add the home under their provider number. The home will be a joint effort with a private owner and the agency and will house three or four men with a projected opening in May or June of 2007. The committee approved the affiliation of the operations of the new facility under the umbrella of The Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services.

Dr. Watts recommended that the meeting time be changed to 4:45 p.m. to help those who had difficulty coming at 4:30 p.m. Committee approved.

NEXT MEETING:

June 5, 2007 – Summer Meeting 4:45 p.m.(we will nominate and elect officers at this meeting.)

September 11, 2007 – Fall Meeting 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Bagby, Administrative Support