

**HANOVER LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
(DRAFT)**

DATE: December 2, 2008

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Sharon Taylor, Lynn Goodale, Taneika Goldman, Paula Smith

Human Rights Advocate: Beverly Garnes, DMHMRSAS

Affiliate Members: Nicelle Cooper, Ascending Dove Residential
Sheila Lewis, Creative Family Solutions, Inc.
Toreeco Greenhow, Dimension Youth Services
Fidura & Associates, Inc., John Barrett
Terry Seward, Hanover Adult Center
Susan Cunningham, Hanover Community Services
Barbara Riggins, Riggins Residential
A Levealle Cox, VELDOT Residential Services
Crystal Burgess, Virginia Baptist Children's Home
Kristin Yavorsky, Virginia Supportive Housing
Georgina Simmons, Milestone

Committee Members Charlene Leahy

Absent:

Affiliate Members Richmond Residential Services

Absent:

Guest: Angelique Nettleton, Ativa Youth Intervention

WELCOME: Sharon Taylor 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 September 9, 2008 meeting be approved as corrected.

- II. **OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
Beverly Garnes, Human Rights Advocate, reported on the Human Rights Training Seminar that was held in Petersburg on October 17, 2008. There were approximately 75 participants, and the training was received well. They look forward to doing this again next year. Other news, Jim Bowser, who was the first Advocate hired, as a Regional Advocate for The Office of Human Rights, will be retiring in February/March 2009.

- III. **Affiliate Reports:**
 - a. **Ascending Dove Residential Care:** Nicelle Cooper reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations. There was a new client admitted to location #2 on September 13th, 2008. Ascending Dove Care is requesting affiliation for an In Home Residential program. This program is currently in the process of being licensed, however an updated letter of affiliation is needed to complete the process.

 - b. **Creative Family Solutions:** Sheila Lewis reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations for the quarter. There were 8 employees hired and 4 terminated.

- c. **Dimension Youth Services:** Toreeco Greenhow reported that there was one allegation of Human Rights Violation. Torreco Greenhow reported that he was escorting a client to a scheduled doctor's appointment. An oncoming SUV collided into Mr. Greenhow's vehicle. Torreco Greenhow immediately checked on the client, who appeared to be fine and was sitting on the passenger's side. The ambulance arrived and took the client and Mr. Greenhow to the hospital to be examined. The client was examined and everything was fine. The client was taken back to the group home, and met with the staff counselor where staff monitored him throughout the night. There were two new residents admitted to the group home, and 1 new staff member for Resident Care.
- d. **Fidura & Associates, Inc.:** John Barrett reported there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. A new site was added at 8320 Southern Watch Place, Mechanicsville VA. They closed the site located at 7296 Pamela Louise Rd., Mechanicsville, VA.
- e. **Hanover Adult Center:** Terry Seward reported that there were three allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. First incident, Terry Seward reported that the client stated that one of the program directors yelled at her. The incident was immediately investigated. There was insufficient evidence to make a clear conclusion of verbal abuse of yelling. The client felt "OK" with the outcome and the conclusion of the investigation. Second incident, Terry Seward reported that a client state that a program director yelled at her. The incident was immediately investigated. There was insufficient evidence to make a clear conclusion of verbal abuse of yelling. The client felt "OK" with the outcome and the conclusion of the investigation. Third incident, client reported that he was grabbed and called names. An investigation began, and there was sufficient evidence to make a clear conclusion of name-calling and grabbing of the client. The employee will no longer be used as relief staff, effective immediately.
- f. **Hanover Community Services:** Susan Cunningham reported that there was one allegation of human rights violations during the quarter. There was a fire drill at a group home, and the client was on the ground outside and the staff member attempted to get the client up resulting in bruises on the clients arm. There immediately was an investigation and upon investigation it resulted unfounded. The conclusion was that this was not a case of abuse. There was a corrective action put in place for the Group Home Staff. There were no program changes for the quarter.

The affiliate is requesting a seat belt restraint, which was presented to the committee by Laverne Smith. The Day Support program is requesting a seat belt restraint to be used whenever transporting the client who has repeatedly unfastened his seat belt and left his seat and opened the van door while the van is in motion. Laverne Smith will be submitting a behavioral treatment plan to the committee for review and recommendations.
- g. **Milestone:** Georgina Simmons reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations. They hired one part time LCSW/LPC and two Case Managers, one full time, and 1 part time. There were 128 clients admitted to the program.
- h. **Richmond Residential Services, Inc.:** Absent, no report.
- i. **Riggins Residential:** Barbara Riggins reported that there was one allegation of human rights violations during the quarter. A resident had access to the wrong medication. Three staff members were hired, one terminated. There was one resident that left the program and one resident that moved into Hanover home.
- j. **VELDOT Residential Services:** Leavelle Cox reported that there were no allegations of human right violations during the quarter. There were no program changes for the quarter.

- k. **Virginia Baptist Children's Home & Family Services – DDM:** Crystal Burgess reported that there was one allegation of Human Rights Violations during the quarter. It was reported that there was a Peer-to-Peer Incident. Another resident pushed another resident out of the way while walking across the kitchen to receive meds from staff. She was asked why she pushed the other resident, and she explained she wanted to hurry and take her medication so she could drink her cup of coffee. She apologized to the other resident. No staff neglect was found.
- l. **Virginia Supportive Housing:** Kristin Yavorsky reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There were no program changes for the quarter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reminder to the affiliates to send reports of Human Rights Activities to Robbin Branch two weeks prior to all LHRC Committee meetings. This allows the members a chance to review the reports of activities prior to the meeting. You may submit the Human Rights Activity Report Form to the committee for review. Please complete the section of the form where applicable. For each allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation, please submit a narrative of your investigative report and indicate your findings. (The Advocate will continue to receive the full report however). This may be attached to your Activity Report form.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ascending Dove requested affiliation for an In Home Residential program. This program is currently in the process of being licensed, however an updated letter of affiliation is needed to complete the process. The request for affiliation was approved by the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEXT MEETING:

March 3rd, 2008

DISCUSSION:

Sharon Taylor motioned for a closed session to interview a candidate for membership to the LHRC. The LHRC will submit their recommendations regarding the candidate to the State Human Rights Committee for review and approval. Sharon Taylor then motioned to go back for an open session.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by:

Robbin Branch