

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **January 22, 2007**

**Members Present:** Dick Travis, Scott Bennett, Florence Ferguson, Joe Sharrer

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Chuck Collins (Regional HR Advocate), Mark Seymour (HR Advocate), Heather Newland, Loretta Myers, April Mayer (Pleasant View), Marsha DuBois (VAIL liaison), John Humphreys (Fair Haven liaison), Pam Hevener (RMH liaison), Justine Waits (Lutheran Family Services liaison), Christy Collins (CC & Associates), Judy Otto (CJ Designs liaison), Charlotte McNulty (HRCSB Executive Director), and Holly Albrite (HRCSB liaison).

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

Introductions were made by those in attendance.

#### **MINUTES**

One correction was made to the minutes to add LHRC member Florence Ferguson to those in attendance and delete an incorrect addition. Scott Bennett made a motion that was seconded by Dick Travis, and approved by the Committee, to approve as written the minutes from the October 16, 2006 meeting.

#### **ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS**

**VAIL** – Marsha DuBois reported that VAIL currently serves 12 individuals in the services licensed by DMHMRSAS. The program had no informal or formal human rights complaints during the past year. Human rights training is conducted annually. There were no programmatic changes this year.

**Rockingham Memorial Hospital** – Pam Hevener noted that three of RMH's behavioral health services are licensed by DMHMRSAS. These are the Partial Hospitalization Program, the Life Recovery Program and the MH Inpatient Center. The MH Center is licensed for 20 beds, but currently staffs a capacity of 18 beds, with an average daily census of 15. There were 15 human rights issues in the past year that were reviewed with the Committee. In response to a question, it was clarified that the hospital would alert legal authorities when there is reason to believe that a crime has been committed, as it required in the human rights regulations.

**Specialized Youth Services** – There was no one in attendance from this program. Mark Seymour will follow up, and this program's annual report will likely be carried over to the next meeting.

**PRESENTATION ON CSA AND JLARC STUDY** – Charlotte McNulty, the Executive Director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham CSB, provided an overview of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) enacted in 1982, and a recently released study completed by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on residential services funded by CSA. The Harrisonburg Rockingham locality has no residential services but uses these programs in other areas. Residential services are very expensive for the locality and go against the goal of effectively serving children in their home communities. The availability of local services is likely impacted by the rural nature of the area. Mark Seymour noted that enforcement efforts in residential programs often occur after problems occur due to the lack of regulatory resources to provide proactive monitoring. Among other concerns, the JLARC study identified the need for additional regulatory resources and more stringent state regulatory standards for the four involved agencies (DSS, DMHMRSAS, DJJ, DOE).

### **ADVOCATE REPORTS**

Chuck Collins asked Ms. McNulty for an update on efforts of the Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice's Commission on mental health law reform as she is on the commission and co-chairs the Child and Adolescent Task Group. There are five task groups who are to formulate recommendations regarding reform of the MH law system. Charlotte McNulty reported that the commission work continues but may slow down some after some concerns were raised by the General Assembly.

Chuck Collins reported that the status of the revisions to the human rights regulations appears to be in a holding pattern, but that he plans to inquire when he attends the next State Human Rights Committee meeting. The input on the proposed regulations provided by Chairperson, Joe Sharrer, and others was noted to have been received.

Mark Seymour reported that Minnick Education Services, a committee program affiliate, has been providing services locally for just over a year. He recently worked with them to clarify the duty to report requirements in the regulations.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Human Rights Training for Pleasant View's contractual personnel** – Heather Newland distributed a proposed policy regarding the orientation of contract staff who are provide some direct care services at Pleasant View. The Committee reviewed the proposed policy and endorsed it.

**LHRC Vacancy** – There continues to be a vacancy for a consumer member on the Committee, and the regulatory requirements for who can serve in this capacity were reviewed. Joe Sharrer requested the RMH and Pleasant View attempt to identify some applicants. Applications for membership should go directly to Chuck Collins.

**SHRC Member** – Joe Sharrer reported that a prior committee member of the HRLHRC, Joe Lynch, has recently been appointed to the SHRC. An invitation to visit the HRLHRC will be conveyed to Mr. Lynch through Mr. Collins.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Florence Ferguson moved that the Committee go into Executive Session under Section 2.2-3711 (a), subparagraph 15 of the Code of Virginia, which is for consideration of medical and/or mental health records. Dick Travis seconded the motion and motion carried.

The Committee met in Executive Session.

Dick Travis moved that the Committee certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee. Scott Bennett seconded the motion and was approved by all Committee members.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 16, 2007 at 2:00 pm. at the CSB.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Ferguson  
HRLHRC Secretary

Holly Albrite  
HRCSB Liaison/Recording Secretary