

MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2008

Members Present: Joe Sharrer, Dick Travis, Florence Ferguson

Members Absent: Scott Bennett

Others Present: Mark Seymour (Regional HR Advocate), Heather Newland, (Pleasant View, Inc), John Humphreys (Fair Haven Residential), Diane Babral (RMH), Christy Collins (CC & Associates), Judy Otto (CJ Designs), Mary Ellen Chewning (The Arc) Julie Walls (Harrisonburg League of Therapists), Darlene Hilton (Specialized Youth Services), Gary Wilburn, James Collins (Minnick Education), Holly Albrite (HRCSB)

Guests: Sandra Mongold, Community member, Dane Byers, Crossroads Counseling, Joe Lynch, State Human Rights Committee

CALL TO ORDER

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

Introductions were made by those in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes from the July 16, 2007 (with quorum) and October 15, 2007 meetings were approved by committee members in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joe Sharrer recognized and welcomed Joe Lynch, a local resident and member of the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC). Mr. Lynch is a previous member and chair of the HRLHRC. Mr. Lynch reported on several topics that were discussed at the recent SHRC meeting including an ongoing discussion regarding what constitutes a complaint that is reportable.

Mark Seymour offered to provide the recommended form for emailing complaint information from affiliates to the advocates. Note: the form was ultimately not distributed as information regarding complaints may not be emailed as this method of communication is not secure.

Joe Sharrer asked about the anticipated changes to inpatient commitment criteria following the Virginia Tech tragedy. It was confirmed that there are many bills before the General Assembly regarding this issue.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

The ARC/Op Shop – Mary Ellen Chewning reported that the Op Shop and the ARC moved into the renovated Simms Building in May of 2005. The Op Shop serves 25 individuals ranging in age from 21 to 65 and has six full-time and three part-time staff. Consumer incidents were reviewed and there were no formal complaints during the year. It was suggested that the human rights training that is provided for staff be competency based.

Rockingham Memorial Hospital – Diane Babral reported that RMH provides both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. They received a three year license renewal through DMHMRSAS during the past year. Human rights issues raised during the past year were reviewed, and it was clarified that they provide competency based human rights training in addition to other training.

VAIL – The liaison was not able to attend the meeting so the agency's annual report will be done at the next committee meeting.

AFFILIATION REQUEST – Dane Byers presented information to the committee on the local services provided by Crossroads Counseling Center, a branch of Children's Services of Virginia. The agency offers a broad range of services including intensive in-home and mental health support services. The agency was originally affiliated with Northwestern LHRC and is requesting local affiliation as services grow in the Harrisonburg Rockingham County area. Human rights policies were provided to committee members and training practices were explained. The agency reports being in good standing with licensure locally and that there have been no local human rights issues.

Florence Ferguson made a motion to accept the local program for affiliation. The motion was seconded by Dick Travis and approved by the committee.

ADVOCATE REPORT – Mark Seymour reminded affiliates that there will be an honor system for completion of any necessary policy and procedure revisions brought about by the revised human rights regulations. Any revisions are to be done by March 1, 2008 and are not to be submitted to the advocates, but will be reviewed at such time that programs are visited for review.

COMMENTS FROM AFFILIATES

Minnick Education Services reported that they will be moving their program to its new local location on Liberty Street in the near future.

Harrisonburg League of Therapists reported that local services are growing and they are able to offer bilingual services.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm. – location to be determined.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Ferguson
HRLHRC Secretary

Holly Albrite
HRCSB Liaison/Recording Secretary