

MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2007

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Chuck Collins (Regional HR Advocate), Heather Newland, John Humphreys (Fair Haven liaison), Diane Babral (RMH), Justine Waits, Brooke A. Rodgers (Lutheran Family Services), Christy Collins (CC & Associates), Judy Otto, Crystal Kwolek, Laura J. Wittig (CJ Designs), Mary Ellen Chewning (The Arc liaison), Terri Gibbs (Minnick Education Services), 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. Joe Sharrer noted that Joe Lynch planned to attend this meeting as a member of the State Human Rights Committee, but was unable to do so as he is recovering from recent surgery. It is hoped that he will attend a later meeting.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dick Travis and seconded by Scott Bennett to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2007 as written. The motion was approved by the Committee.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

CJ Designs – Judy Otto reported that the agency continues to have two programs licensed by DMHMRSAS. Somerset is licensed for four residents and currently serves three, and Sunset Ridge is licensed and serves eight individuals. They are in the process of developing a new agency training curriculum for human rights that will be done biannually and may involve resident families. Informal and formal human rights issues were reviewed with the Committee, and Chuck Collins commended the program for their response to a situation he was involved with. In response to a question, Mr. Collins explained that there is currently no tracking system related to future hiring of employees terminated for founded abuse in services for adults.

Fair Haven Residential – John Humphrey noted that the agency has two residences licensed by DMHMRSAS to serve nine individuals. All licensed slots are currently occupied. The agency had minimal staff turnover this year and experienced no notable management changes. Informal complaints that occurred during the past year were reviewed. Chuck Collins commended Mr. Humphrey and his staff for helping keep another residential program who lost its license staffed and operating until other housing could be found for the residents of that program.

CC and Associates – The agency is licensed to provide in-home residential, community based day support, and as of December 2006, supported residential services. They currently serve 18 individuals in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County area. Christy Collins provided information on the one informal human rights issues they had in this locality during the past year.

Specialized Youth Services – As was the case at the January meeting, there was no one present from this agency to provide the annual report. Joe Sharrer indicated that the Committee would consider disaffiliation if there is no one present to provide an annual report at the time of the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Membership Update – The Committee continues to need another consumer member and no applications were submitted during the past quarter.

Pleasant View liaison Heather Newland informed the committee that they want to add a sponsored home placement service to their agency license. Florence Ferguson made a motion that was seconded by Scott Bennett and approved by all committee members that this change would not result in any changes to the agency LHRC affiliation.

At Joe Sharrer's request, Dick Travis and Florence Ferguson agreed to serve as a nominating committee for officers for the coming year, review the committee bylaws, and present any related recommendations to the Committee at the July meeting.

ADVOCATE REPORT

Mr. Collins

- Reported that the proposed revisions to the human rights regulations will be considered by the State Board again on May 4, 2007, following several recommended revisions proposed by the Board at the April meeting. It was noted that the input provided by HRLHRC members and affiliates did not result in any changes to the proposed regulations.
- Presented chairperson, Joe Sharrer, with an award that was presented to each LHRC at a recent state volunteer recognition luncheon.
- Offered to conduct a human rights training for the members and affiliates of the HRLHRC. **It was agreed that the training will be held on June 5, 2007 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Arc offices.** Holly Albrite will send an email giving the date, time, and location and asking for rsvps to Mary Ellen Chewning by June 4th.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

- Dick Travis complimented the annual reports that were presented during the meeting
- Holly Albrite reported on recovery efforts at the CSB including the hiring of eight Peer Support Specialists

- Diane Babral explained that she is taking the place on an interim basis for Pam Hevener, the previous liaison for RMH, who has changed positions at the hospital.
- Mary Ellen Chewning thanked residential providers for the good collaboration efforts related to individuals that they work with.
- Terri Gibbs reported that Minnick Education Services is experiencing steady growth in their student population, up to 27 currently.
- Justine Waits introduced a Lutheran Family Service's newly hired therapist, Brooke Rodgers.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 16, 2007 at 2:00 pm. at the PV Day Program.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Ferguson
HRLHRC Secretary

Holly Albrite
HRCSB Liaison/Recording Secretary