

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **July 14, 2008**

**Members Present:** Dick Travis, Florence Ferguson, Sandra Mongold, Page Shields

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Chuck Collins, Mark Seymour (HR Advocates), Heather Newland, (Pleasant View, Inc), Betsy Wine (Fair Haven Residential), Andree Gitchell (RMH), Christy Collins (CC & Associates), Mary Ellen Chewning (The Arc), Justine Waits (Lutheran Family Services), Duane Gingerich (Specialized Youth Services), Marcia DuBois (VAIL), Dane Byers (Crossroads Counseling Center), Holly Albrite (HRC SB)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Introductions were made by those in attendance

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Page Shields was welcomed as the new HRLHRC member and Florence Ferguson and Dick Travis were welcomed back for their second term.

Chairperson Dick Travis noted that the committee continues to need a consumer member and requested that all affiliates attempt to identify potential candidates. The regulatory guidelines for consumer members were reviewed with the group.

#### **MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2008 meeting as mailed was made and approved by the committee.

#### **ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS**

**Hbg-R'ham Community Service Board** – Holly Albrite reviewed the information on the annual report, noting planning for upcoming changes in federal Medicaid regulations and the impact of MH Law Reform in Virginia. A written summary of informal complaints during the past year was provided. In response to a question regarding how the agency monitors for staff burnout which might result in lack of follow through when there are potential problems with a consumer's placement, Ms. Albrite explained that hopefully this would be detected through supervision and ongoing encouragement for consumers to contact the agency if their needs are not being met.

**Lutheran Family Services** – Justine Waits presented the program annual report noting the move to a new local location housed with Minnick Education Services. She clarified that while the two programs share some management oversight, they have separate staffs. There were no human rights issues during the past year.

**DePaul Services** – There was no one in attendance from DePaul. Mark Seymour plans to follow up with their liaison. NOTE: Jim Hall, DePaul's liaison, left a message stating that their agency has consolidated their human right committee affiliations and will no longer be an affiliate of HRLHRC.

**Harrisonburg League of Therapists** has consolidated their affiliations through Region Ten's LHRC and is discontinuing their affiliation with HRLHRC. Mr. Collins noted that multi-jurisdictional programs now have the option of consolidating affiliations if one LHRC agrees to provide oversight for all locations. It continues to be preferable to have an affiliation in each locality but there is recognition that this is not always practical especially for smaller programs.

The committee was reminded that it decided to reassess its size if the number of affiliations reached fifteen. With the discontinuation of two affiliations, there are currently twelve programs affiliated with HRLHRC.

#### **Crossroads Counseling Physical Safety Policy**

Dane Byers explained that the program has developed a physical safety policy and parental notification form in order to respond when a child's behavior is placing themselves or others at risk. All in-school behavior support specialists are trained in the MANDT behavior management curriculum. Staff will stay with any child who has to be removed from a classroom, and if any injury should result from interacting with a child who is a risk of harm, medical attention will be sought, the incident will be reported to DMHMRSAS, and the parents/guardians notified. Following discussion the committee confirmed its agreement with the policy and parental notification.

#### **HRCSB Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program Rules and Norms**

Holly Albrite reported that the CSBs psychosocial program, Summit House, has recently revised its program rules and norms to clarify some expectations and possible consequences. The committee was provided with a copy of the revised rules and norms with the meeting mailing. It was explained that suspension or termination from the program is only considered for the most serious situations and is based on the circumstances of the situation, and is not an automatic consequence. Following discussion, the committee made a motion and approved the revised rules and norms.

#### **ADVOCATE REPORTS**

Chuck Collins offered to do an annual training on the human rights regulations for committee members and affiliates. The training will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at the Arc/Op Shop.

Mr. Collins also reviewed a human rights case at Western State Hospital that was recently heard by the SHRC and has received some local media attention.

Mr. Collins commended Pleasant View, the Op Shop, and the CSB for the work on handling a consumer who has been difficult to serve. She has recently relocated to a new residential placement but continues part-time in a local day placement.

Mark Seymour reported that he recently had some indication that involuntary commitments of children may be increasing but noted that he has not seen this locally.

**OTHER BUSINESS / COMMENTS FROM AFFILIATES**

Holly Albrite thanked Specialized Youth Services for providing the snacks for the meeting. Affiliation sponsorship fees are due as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2008 at 2:00 pm at the CSB.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mongold  
HRLHRC Secretary

Holly Albrite  
HRCSB Liaison/Recording Secretary