

MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2007

Members Present: Dick Travis, Florence Ferguson

Members Absent: Scott Bennett, Joe Sharrer

Others Present: Chuck Collins, Mark Seymour (Regional HR Advocates), Heather Newland, Eryn Clawson (Pleasant View, Inc), Donna Reynolds (Fair Haven Residential), Diane Babral (RMH), Dawn Keim, Brooke A. Rodgers (Lutheran Family Services), Christy Collins (CC & Associates), Judy Otto (CJ Designs liaison), Carol Hart (The Arc), Kris SantaMaria (Harrisonburg League of Therapists liaison), Darlene Hilton (Specialized Youth Services liaison), James Collins (Minnick Education), Marcia DuBois (VAIL liaison), Holly Albrite (HRCSB liaison) and Dane Byers

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 were approved by committee members in attendance. Formal approval will occur when a quorum of members are present.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Harrisonburg League of Therapists – Kris SantaMaria reported that the agency began offering services locally during the past six months, and the intensive in-home program is currently serving 15 families. They have hired a new director for this area who plans to attend the next LHRC meeting. The agency has experienced no human rights complaints.

Specialized Youth Services – Darlene Hilton reported that the agency's intensive in-home program currently serves 46 clients and has eight therapists on staff. They no longer operate a mentoring program and plan to begin a therapeutic in-school day treatment program in the coming year. She reported no human rights issues during the past year.

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

Pleasant View Inc. – Heather Newland reported that the agency serves about 130 individuals and has approximately 150 staff. Informal and formal complaints and the resolutions were reviewed for the committee. Ms. Newland clarified that individuals who provide services at PV on a contract basis do come under the human rights regulations and are trained on the regulations by their employer. Mr. Collins commended Pleasant View for their timely reporting of complaints.

Minnick Education Services – James Collins reported that the school has grown to 36 students and 20 staff. They plan to relocate to a larger building that will allow them to increase their capacity to 70 students. They serve individuals from both local and surrounding counties. He noted no human rights issues. Mark Seymour noted being contacted by a parent and that the issue was satisfactorily resolved following a meeting between the parents and staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

Revised Regulations – The revised human rights regulations are now in effect. Mr. Collins reported that the predominant changes involved a reorganization of the format and added clarity to some sections. Substantive changes include the addition of recovery concepts and a revamping of the consent and substitute decision making sections. There will be 6 training sessions for providers held across the state in the coming weeks. Providers must bring policies and procedures into compliance with the new regulations by March 1, 2008. Per Mr. Collins, providers will be asked to confirm their compliance, but will not submit for review by the committee or advocates. The policies and procedures are subject to review at any time.

Update on Committee Membership – There continues to be an opening for a consumer member. Affiliates were offered a LHRC Application form in the event they can identify potential members.

ADVOCATE REPORT

Mr Collins:

- Had 11 human rights issues raised concerning local providers over the past quarter.
- He continues his involvement on the Chief Justice's Empowerment and Self Determination Task Force

Mr. Seymour

- Provided more information on changes in the revised human rights regulations.

COMMENTS FROM AFFILIATES

- In response to a question from Mr. Collins regarding children services and the potential growth in this area:
 - Darlene Hilton noted that they are seeing an increase in young children.
 - Kris SantaMaria said they are expecting locally-based providers to begin additional services following a study that found residential programs are not that effective.
 - James Collins noted their demand for services is up.
 - Brooke Rodgers identified a need for more local wrap around services.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm. at VAIL.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Ferguson
HRLHRC Secretary

Holly Albrite
HRCSB Liaison/Recording Secretary