

MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2006

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 and Loretta Myers (Pleasant View), Mary Ellen Chewning (Arc/Op Shop liaison), Marsha DuBois (VAIL liaison), John Humphreys and Donna Reynolds (Fair Haven), Pam Hevener (RMH liaison), Gary Wilburn and Valeri Brooke Pinoe (Minnick Education Center), Justine Waits (Lutheran Family Services liaison), Darlene Hilton (Specialized Youth Services liaison), 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

Dick Travis made a motion that was seconded by Florence Ferguson, and approved by the Committee, to approve as written the minutes from the July 10, 2006 meeting.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Lutheran Family Services – Justine Waits provided the annual report for the program that provides intensive home based services for children at risk of removal from the home. The local program currently serves two individuals, and served a total of four throughout the year. There were no human rights complaints during the year, and no programmatic changes.

Arc/Op Shop – Mary Ellen Chewning reported that the Op Shop has been open since 1983 providing day support services to adults who age out of public school. Transportation is provided by the Arc. They currently serve 25 consumers. Staffing changes and the process for staff human rights training were reviewed. There were no human rights complaints during the past year. In response to a question, Mrs. Chewning explained what off-site activities are available to consumers. Chuck Collins reported that he conducted a monitoring visit at the program on October 3, 2006 which went well.

Pleasant View – The program currently serves approximately 130 consumers and has between 150 and 200 staff. Heather Newland reported that the agency has experienced an increase in staffing issues, some of which have resulted in human rights issues. Management is actively problem solving how to respond to these concerns. Mr. Collins commended the agency on their timely reporting and response when issues arise. A review of informal and formal complaints was provided. The committee requested follow-up at the next meeting regarding the process for providing human rights training

when the agency uses temporary staff. The process required by licensure for carrying out criminal background checks was reviewed by Mr. Collins.

Minnick Education Center – Gary Wilburn reported that this program is licensed to provide day treatment services in addition to education services. They currently provide day treatment to 10 of the 15 students enrolled in the local program. The program has experienced notable growth in students in recent months, and had a transition in the program manager/principal position. They have capacity to service up to 30 students. There have been no human rights concerns since their affiliation. Human rights training is still being operationalized at the program but will be provided by the program manager during orientation.

CHANGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY – Lutheran Family Services

Justine Waits stated that their agency had a recommended change to their physical restraint policy from the national accreditation body that reviews them. The recommended change would be to have a shorter time frame of no more than 15 minutes for a child under the age of 9. The maximum time frame for children over 9 would remain at 30 minutes. In response to a request from the committee, Ms. Waits and another agency representative demonstrated the physical holds allowed per the policy. The program has not needed to use a physical hold during the time Ms. Waits has been with the agency, but has the policy in place should it be needed in case of an emergency or in a treatment plan that would come before the committee for review. Dick Travis made a motion to approve the change to the policy that was seconded by Scott Bennett and approved by the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

LHRC Vacancy – There continues to be a vacancy for a consumer member on the committee.

Committee Minutes – Minutes are now posted on the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services' website. Both the draft and final version of the minutes are posted. After some discussion it was clarified that draft minutes are posted due to Freedom of Information Act requirements related to timely posting.

Revision to Human Rights Regulation – The public comment period for the proposed revisions continues until November 17, 2006. Following discussion regarding some of the proposed revisions and a report from Joe Sharrer on his attendance at a recent public hearing, the committee made and approved a motion to submit a written comment regarding the proposed change requiring State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) review of denials of LHRC affiliations. Holly Albrite will email the contact email address for other comments that the committee or affiliates may want to make.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE REPORTS

Mark Seymour introduced Darlene Hilton the new director of the local Specialized Youth Services. Ms. Hilton provided a brief description of her program to the committee. Mr. Seymour also noted the challenges of client-to-staff ratios when providing transportation to a group.

Chuck Collins provided the following information:

- Joe Lynch, a previous HRLHRC member and a licensed private therapist, was recently appointed to the SHRC.
- He visited Harrisonburg-Rockingham CSB to meet with staff in a question and answer session.
- He conducted monitoring visits at Op Shop and Pleasant View.
- He has been appointed to the Consumer Empowerment committee of a statewide task force sponsored by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court taking a look at all state mental health statutes.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 22, 2006 at 2:00 pm. at VAIL.**

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