

MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2009

Members Present: Florence Ferguson, Dick Travis, Page Shields

Members Absent: Sandra Mongold, Sabrina Rozzell

Others Present: Chuck Collin, Mark Seymour (HR Advocates), Heather Newland, (Pleasant View, Inc), John Humphreys (Fair Haven Residential), Mary Ellen Chewning (The Arc), Duane Gingerich, Laura Ogden (Specialized Youth Services), Gayl Brunk (VAIL), Dane Byers (Crossroads Counseling Center), Crystal Kwolek (CJ Designs), Terri Gibbs, James Collins (Minnick Education Center), Sheri Tratnack (Community Member), Kathy Nelson and Holly Albrite (HRCSB)

CALL TO ORDER/MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

Introductions were made by those in attendance. It was noted that Sabrina Rozzell has been appointed to the HRLHRC by the State Human Rights Committee. Ms. Rozzell sent her regrets at being unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2008 meeting as mailed was made by Dick Travis and approved by the committee.

INFORMATION ITEM

Sheri Tratnack provided information on a research study she conducted entitled "Preventative Health Screening for Persons with Serious Mental Illness". Members from Summit House, the CSB psychosocial program, were given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the study that was approved by the UVA Institutional Review Board. Consent was given by all participants.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

VAIL – Gayl Brunk provided the annual report in the absence of Marcia DuBois. VAIL continues to provide cross disability services and is licensed to provide supportive living and community based day support through DMHMRSAS. The program served 11 individuals from Harrisonburg and Rockingham County in the past year. Gayl noted that VAIL celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. There were no human rights issue in the past year.

Cross Roads Counseling – Dane Byers reported that the program continues to provide mental health support and intensive in-home services licensed by DMHMRSAS. They recently had a licensure review that went well. There was one human rights issue in the past year.

Specialized Youth Services – Laura Odgen reported that this program is licensed by DMHMRSAS to provide intensive in-home and therapeutic day services. There were no human rights issues in the past year. Mark Seymour noted a needed correction of his phone number on the client rights form. In response to a question from Chuck Collins it was clarified that the listed client responsibilities are more aspirational than binding and that there are no defined sanctions if they are not followed.

RMH – Will present at the next LHRC meeting in April

ADVOCATE REPORT

Chuck Collins reported on the meeting held on January 7, 2009 at the Commonwealth Children's Center in Staunton that is slated to be closed at the end of the current fiscal as the state responds to budget cuts and moves towards privatization of children's inpatient services. There is the possibility that the LHRC that currently serves the Commonwealth Center will become the committee for all regional children's programs. There was support for this idea from the affiliates at the meeting.

Mark Seymour noted that the children and adolescent unit at Marion, Virginia is also slated to close in the spring, and that the closures of these programs is expected to result in increased demand for community intensive in-home services. A discussion followed of the challenge to private providers of being asked to serve increasingly high need children and the increased liability risk that can result.

QUESTIONS AND AFFILIATE COMMENTS

Minnick Education noted that they have increased their capacity from 38 to 50 children and that they are seeing more challenging referrals.

John Humphrey from Fair Haven Residential reported that the program plans to move back into their newly renovated residence in the near future. He also mentioned the new statewide Consumer Service Plan that providers need to begin using in the spring.

Holly Albrite reported that the CSB Executive Director, Charlotte McNulty, is leaving to head the state Comprehensive Services Act office. She will be greatly missed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2009 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