

APPROVED
Heartland Regional
Local Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2006
6PM
Helton House Day Support Site
Rice, VA

Members Present: Royce Cersley, Virginia Berkley, Shelia Robertson, Darin Knicely, and Bettie Hazelwood

Members Absent: Aaron Myers and Sisty Cersley

Others Present: Edward and Mike Helton-Helton House, Ava Brendle, Gerri Reynolds, Ed Bowman, and Wayne Bowman-Developmental Disabilities Ministries of the Virginia Baptist Children's Home

Others Absent: Vanessa Harvey-VP&J Services, Michael Jordan-Next Level Residential Services, Mary Taylor-Mary's Rest Home, Gwen Albert-Family Preservation Services, and Stacia Macklin-United Methodist Family Services

Virginia Berkley, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Minutes

The minutes from the October 24, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

Affiliation Request

Gerri Reynolds, Vice President, Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services requested affiliation with Heartland Regional LHRC on behalf of her organization. The organization is working to open a group home in the Farmville area for six males with mental retardation. The organization hopes to open the new facility in March, 2006.

The Committee voted unanimously to grant this organization LHRC affiliation.

Training

Sherry Miles, Regional Advocate, presented training on the Freedom of Information Act and the effect it will have on the Committee. The Committee and affiliates were advised of the various aspect of FOIA and the changes that will have to be made immediately, including posting meeting notices at least three days prior to the upcoming meeting in area where the announcement can be seen by consumers. In addition, the Committee was advised of the need for draft and approved minutes to be posted on a website for review by any interested party. The Committee received an additional handout that contained more information concerning FOIA.

Regional Advocate Report

Sherry advised the Committee that the proposed human rights regulations will be available for public comment in the near future and she would ensure each person was advised of their availability to ensure their opportunity to comment. She also advised the Committee that the SHRC planned to have the LHRC training seminar in 2006. It his hoped the seminar can coincide with the implementation date of the updated human rights regulations for training opportunities. Sherry advised the Committee that there will be two vacancies after June 30, 2006 and recruitment needs to start now to fill those vacancies. Both vacancies are for concerned citizens/professional. Sherry advised the Committee that two new homes in the Amelia area are in the licensing process and have submitted their human rights policies and procedures. Lastly, Sherry discussed with the Committee the need to find a person to act as secretary to maintain minutes and send out meeting announcements. This will have to be discussed at the next meeting as only one affiliated program attended the meeting.

Affiliate Reports**Family Preservation Services**

Absent.

Helton House

Ed and Mike Helton reported giving their consumers, consumer families and friends a Thanksgiving and Christmas banquet and everyone appeared to have a good time. The program had one consumer pass away from pneumonia since our last meeting. The program has received verbal confirmation from Office of Licensing that the Victory Lane home will be licensed for 5 consumers. Provider has one vacancy at the Whispering Hope home. Provider is giving thought to seeking licensure for a waiver day support at their current site in Rice, VA. They reported no complaints or allegations of abuse/neglect.

Mary's Rest Home

Absent.

Next Level Residential Services

Michael Jordan called Regional Advocate to report he would not be able to attend the meeting. In addition, he did report that both houses affiliated with this LHRC are full and things are going relatively well.

VP&J Services

Vanessa Harvey could not attended due to illness.

Next Meeting

The Committee decided to meet on April 10, 2006 at 6PM at the Helton House-Day Support in Rice.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.