

MIDDLE PENINSULA-NORTHERN NECK
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 28,2008

Chairman Frank Jewell called the regular meeting of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. on January 28, 2008, at Heart Havens located in Kilmarnock, Virginia. Board members in attendance were: Frank Jewell, Bill Reisner, Carl Gerster, and Barbara Vest. Agency representatives included: Kelly Murphy – Blue Ridge Residential Services, Douglas Walter and Ida Adams – Bridges, Mary Hayden and Terry Atkins – Heart Havens, Joanne Brown –MPNN CSB, Warren Nesbitt and Patrizia Nesbitt – Sola, Inc., Stacy Hardcastle and Reagan Godsey - Brambles, Barbara Brooks – Puller Center. Willie Barnes, Human Rights Advocate, was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gerster moved that the minutes from the October 22, 2007 meeting be approved as presented. Mr. Reisner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Mary Hayden welcomed the committee to Heart Havens. She explained that the United Methodist Men had first started this group home. Four females have lived in the home for the past eight years.

Event Report Statistics

Reports from each provider on events occurring during the period of October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, were given as follows:

Bridges of RGH – Structured Outpatient Unit – Ms. Adams reported that there were no human rights complaints of a general nature. The average number of clients in the Bridges program is 8.86. The client to staff ratio is 1:2. There were no restraints used this quarter.

Bridges of RGH Inpatient Unit – Mr. Walter submitted the Seclusion and Restraint Utilization Summary for the past year. During the period of October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, there were two abuse/neglect allegations. There was one complaint of a human rights violation.

Heart Havens – Ms. Hayden reported that the staff to client ratio was 2:4 and 1:4. There were no restraints or seclusions.

ARC of the Peninsula- Puller Center – Ms. Brooks reported that the staff to consumer ratio in the Waiver program is two staff to eight consumers, in the Production program, two

staff to fifteen consumers, and in the Thrift Store, one staff to three consumers. There are program changes – the Thrift Store is being phased out, and a new contract is beginning with “Quarterdeck”, a braiding machine for lanyards. There were no reportable incidents this quarter, no human rights complaints, and no seclusion or restraints.

Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB – Ms. Brown reported that the MR and RISP divisions served 467 individuals. In the MR Day Support Program, the staff to consumer ratio is 1:1 to 1:7 depending on individual’s needs. In the residential programs, the ratio is 1:2 to 1:5 depending on the severity of individuals needs. In the RISP program, the staff to consumer ratio is 1:1. The MR division had two client to client abuse cases. It was determined that staff followed proper policy and procedure. There was one formal complaint, which was determined to be unfounded. There were no incidents of restraint and no program changes. In the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, approximately 2,866 consumers were served. Ninety nine staff provided services across the MH/SA program areas. The MH/SA division had three complaints, which were determined to be unfounded.

Sola, Inc. – Ms. Nezbitt reported that there were no complaints filed this quarter. Four persons received residential services. There were no program changes, no incident reports, and no incidents of restraint or seclusion. Ms. Nezbitt requested that all Board members sign a letter that she had drafted stating that at the last meeting, the MPNN LHRC had granted permanent affiliation for two Sola, Inc, programs – The Valley Home Residential Program, and the Villa Day Program. Board members signed the letter as requested.

Brambles – Ms. Hardcastle stated that in the second quarter, there was one client to client abuse incident reported. Staff followed proper policies and procedures. One serious injury was reported. Two medication errors were reported. There are 14 clients in the residential program and the staff/client ratio is 1:5. The staff/client ratio in the Day Support program is 1:5. There are currently 13 clients three days per week and 12 on two days in the Day Support program. There were no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

Blue Ridge Residential Services – Ms. Murphy reported that Blue Ridge has two homes. One home provides services to one individual. The other home does not have any clients. Ms. Murphy officially requested removing the Wyatt Street location from affiliation. There have been no complaints, serious injuries, or abuse allegations. She stated that there was a physician who had ordered a very restrictive device for a consumer. The restrictive device was inappropriate for this client, in the opinion of Blue Ridge Services. Staff worked with the physician, who determined that the device was not necessary.

New Business

Ms. Hardcastle requested temporary affiliation for a fourth group home for Brambles. She explained that the land has been cleared and the modular home has been ordered. She did not have any specs at this point, and no information has been sent to Licensure. Ms. Barnes recommended that Brambles present this request to the committee at this time, to acknowledge expansion. Mr. Reisner moved granting temporary affiliation for a fourth group home for Brambles. Mr. Gerster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Brown requested permanent affiliation for the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board Therapeutic Day Treatment Program. Licensure came for their final visit today for this program. Ms. Brown stated that a conditional license has been granted. Mr. Gerster moved granting permanent affiliation for the Therapeutic Day Treatment Program. Mr. Reisner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Brown requested continued temporary affiliation for the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board Discovery II program. She explained that the delay in purchasing property for this program was due to regional budget concerns. Ms. Vest moved approval of granting continued temporary affiliation for the Discovery II program. Mr. Gerster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Advocate Training

Ms. Barnes reminded affiliates to send in the Seclusion and Restraint Report to Marion Greenfield.

Ms. Vest asked Ms. Barnes to find out if LHRC members should be visiting sites.

Ms. Barnes reminded providers that verification of their updated policies and procedures needs to be sent to Ms. Walsh at the State Human Rights office by March 1. Providers also need to send a copy of their Rules of Conduct, and copies of all human rights policies, including those with revisions based on the new regulations, to their assigned Regional Advocate, by March 1.

Ms. Vest moved approval of requesting a copy of the Rules of Conduct from each provider. Mr. Gerster seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Providers shall send this information to Ms. Slaughter for distribution.

Committee members were in agreement that they prefer to receive information electronically.

Ms. Barnes said that the new regulations state that all complaints, including informal complaints, must be reported to the Office of Human Rights. The provider must indicate if the complaint is formal or informal, and document the choice the individual made in having the problem resolved. If the individual does not make a determination as to whether the complaint is formal or informal, it is considered informal.

Ms. Hardcastle said that Brambles needs to have someone who can teach medication management classes. Ms. Barnes suggested that they check with a local pharmacist.

Committee members requested that Brambles follow up on why there is difficulty getting teachers for the medication management class.

Executive Session

On the motion of Mr. Gerster, seconded by Mr. Reisner, the LHRC voted to go into executive session per VA Code Section 2.2-3711A (4) for the protection of privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely for the purpose of hearing patient related information involving a complaint allegation. The Committee heard reports from Bridges and the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board.

Upon returning to public session, each member of the Committee certified that to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements and only such matters for the protection of the privacy of individuals and their records in personal matters not related to public business were heard and discussed or considered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Slaughter
LHRC Administrative Support