

**APPROVED**  
MIDDLE PENINSULA-NORTHERN NECK  
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF April 23, 2007

Chairman, Frank Jewell, called the regular meeting of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee to order at 1:15 PM on April 23, 2007, at Sola, Inc. located in Gloucester, Virginia. Board members in attendance were Frank Jewell, Barbara Vest, Judith Link, Bill Reiser and Carl Gerster. Agency representatives included Chuck Walsh and Joanne Brown - MPNN CSB, Patrizia and Stephanie Nesbitt - Sola, Inc., Mary Hayden and Terry Atkins - Heart Havens, Stacy Hardcastle - The Brambles, Shannon Rose - Puller Center (Arc of Peninsula), Jeany Murphy - Caring Family Home, Paige O'Brien, Julie McKenzie and Richard Gilman - Blue Ridge Residential Services. Ida Adams - Bridges of RGH/Bridges Inpatient Unit was absent. Willie Barnes, Human Rights Advocate was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Frank Jewell, seconded by Barbara Vest, that the minutes be approved with the following corrections in the paragraph under *Approval of Minutes*: (1) revision of the first sentence in the paragraph to read "A motion was made by Frank Jewell that the minutes be approved..." and (2) addition of the following sentence "The motion to approve the minutes with this correction was seconded by Barbara Vest." Vote was unanimous.

Program Presentation

Patrizia Nesbitt welcomed the committee to Sola, Inc. and invited everyone to the refreshments provided. She, then, explained that Sola, Inc. has started the application process for opening a new location in Gloucester. This new location will house both ambulatory and non-ambulatory residents and will include a day program. Patrizia informed the committee that she will be seeking affiliation at the next meeting.

Event Report Statistics

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

**Bridges of RGH-Structured Outpatient Program** – Absent. No report given.

**Bridges of RGH Inpatient Unit** – Absent. No report given.

**Heart Havens** – Terry Atkins reported one event, in which a consumer was given the wrong medication. This incident was verified and the staff member was suspended until completion of a medication course. No changes to program or incidents of restraint or seclusion were reported.

**Arc of Peninsula-Puller Center** – Shannon Rose reported no events and no incidents of restraint or seclusion. She reported 2 changes to program in that she is the new site manager and that the program is currently in a 90-day due diligence with the Ken Houtz building on Main St. in Gloucester.

**Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB** – Chuck Walsh reported the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division had no changes to program and no incidents of restraint or seclusion this quarter. There was 1 founded complaint and 1 unfounded complaint within this division. The MR Division had 2 client to client abuse complaints that were determined as staff followed proper policy and

procedures. No changes to program or incidents of restraint or seclusion were reported.

**Sola, Inc.** – Patrizia Nesbitt reported no events, no changes to program and no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

**The Brambles** – Stacy Hardcastle reported no changes to program and no incidents of restraint or seclusion. There was one incident reported, in which Brambles acted as an agent of the client and filed the report with APS, Human Rights.

**Caring Family Home** – Jeany Murphy reported no events, no changes to program and no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

There was a brief discussion regarding Bridges of RGH not being represented at this meeting. Advocate Willie Barnes mentioned that state regulations require the committee to reduce both Bridges of RGH programs to temporary affiliation for their absence. Due to their absence, and in accordance with LHRC By-Laws, Bill Reisner made a motion to reduce both programs of Bridges of RGH to temporary affiliation until their attendance at the next meeting, at which point they will need to request permanent affiliation. The motion was seconded by Carl Gerster and the vote was unanimous. Frank Jewell agreed to send a letter to Bridges of RGH informing them of their reduction to temporary status.

#### New business

After much discussion, the listing of LHRC meeting dates and locations for 2007-2008 was drafted. Frank Jewell moved to approve the listing and Barbara Vest seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

The discussion regarding plans for sending LHRC board members to upcoming state trainings was postponed until the July meeting in order to acquire more information from the State Human Rights Office.

During the election of new officers, Barbara Vest moved to elect Frank Jewell as LHRC Chairman. Bill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Carl Gerster made a motion to elect Bill Reisner as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Judith Link and the vote was unanimous. Bill Reisner motioned that the board elect Judith Link as Secretary. Judith Link seconded and the vote was unanimous.

In requesting permanent affiliation, Blue Ridge Residential Services representative, Richard Gilman gave an informative presentation on their program. He explained that they operate on a “sponsor residential” program, in which Blue Ridge recruits families who own homes and trains them in providing residential services. After certifying the family’s home and completing all background checks, Blue Ridge then matches families with the individual needs of consumers to ensure the best placement. Families can sponsor a maximum of 2 consumers, but the typical arrangement is 1 consumer per family.

After the presentation, Barbara Vest asked Mr. Gilman how many sponsor residential sites Blue Ridge currently has in operation, to which he responded that they have established 75 throughout the state of Virginia. Mr. Gilman also introduced Page

O'Brien as the regional coordinator for this area. She is responsible for communicating with the sponsor family, the consumer, and the case manager, as necessary. She would also be the representative in attendance at LHRC meetings. After several other questions from the board members, Barbara Vest motioned, seconded by Judith Link, to grant the request for permanent affiliation of Blue Ridge Residential Services. The vote was unanimous.

#### Old Business

Jeany Murphy reported the status of her efforts to create an alternative LHRC as favorable. At this time, they are interviewing prospective members. She also requested continued temporary affiliation for her second location. Frank Jewell motioned to grant the request and Bill Reisner seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Regarding the discussion of program affiliate agreements and LHRC dues, Chuck Walsh reported that there is no record of dues having been paid and although affiliates were invoiced at one point for some advertising and travel fees, the MPNN CSB has been absorbing most LHRC-related costs thus far. The discussion continued with an attempt to ascertain whether dues were needed at this time. It was decided that Mr. Walsh would estimate the annual cost of the LHRC and the amount at which that cost would exceed the CSB's willingness to pay. The discussion was postponed pending this information.

#### Training

This meeting's training was concerning the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and was for the committee members only; therefore, the affiliates were dismissed.

#### Announcement/Updates

None at this meeting.

#### Executive Session

On the motion of Bill Reisner, seconded by Frank Jewell, the LHRC voted to go into executive session per VA Code Section 2.2-3711A(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely for the purpose of hearing patient-related information involving a complaint allegation.

Upon returning to public session each member of the committee certified that to the best of their knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from open 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 at 3:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, July 23, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bridges of RGH Outpatient Program in Kilmarnock, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Davenport  
LHRC Administrative Support