

MIDDLE PENINSULA-NORTHERN NECK
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2007

Vice-Chairman Bill Reisner called the regular meeting of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. on October 22, 2007, at the Gloucester Counseling Center located in Gloucester, Virginia. Mr. Reisner then turned the meeting over to Chairman Frank Jewell. Board members in attendance were: Frank Jewell, Judith Link, Bill Reisner, Carl Gerster, and Barbara Vest. Agency representatives included: Paige O'Brien and Kelly Murphy – Blue Ridge Residential Services, Douglas Walter and Ida Adams – Bridges, Mary Hayden and Terry Atkins– Heart Havens, Chuck Walsh, Joanne Brown, Pat Dorgan, and Elizabeth Lee – MPNN CSB, Warren Nesbitt and Patrizia Nesbitt – Sola, Inc., Stacy Hardcastle, Clyde Forrest, Mary Forrest – Brambles, and Shannon Rose – Puller Center. Willie Barnes, Human Rights Advocate, was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gerster moved that the minutes from the July 23, 2007 meeting be approved, as amended: page one, first sentence, second line, the date of the meeting was changed to July 23, 2007; page two, under Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB, the third sentence was changed to read: The MR division had 1 client to client abuse complaint that was determined unfounded, and that staff followed proper policy and procedures.; page four, under Announcements/Updates, in the third sentence, the word “motioned”, was changed to “moved”; and page five, third paragraph, first sentence, the word “required”, was changed to “urged”.

Program Presentation

Chuck Walsh welcomed the committee to the Gloucester Counseling Center. He noted that the Counseling Center opened in 1986. There are 52 staff who work out of this site. There are 26 groups offered at the Center. Emergency Services and Case Management are just two of many services provided at this location.

Event Report Statistics

Reports from each provider on events occurring during the period of July 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, were given as follows:

Bridges of RGH – Structured Outpatient Program – Ms. Adams reported that there were no human rights complaints of a general nature. No restraints were used this quarter.

Bridges of RGH Inpatient Unit – Mr. Walter reported that there was one patient to patient abuse complaint, which was determined to be unfounded. There was one complaint regarding rights. There were no systemic human rights issues identified. There was one death/serious injury and one seclusion and restraint incident.

Heart Havens – Ms. Hayden reported no events and no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

Arc of Peninsula- Puller Center – Ms. Rose said that there were no reportable incidents and no human rights complaints. There were no incidents of seclusion or restraint. One program change will be made when the Puller Center moves into the old Ken Houtz building – there will not be a thrift store.

Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB – Mr. Walsh reported that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division had three complaints. Two complaints were unfounded, and one was resolved. There was no restraint or seclusion. The MR Division had one peer to peer incident, which was determined to be unfounded and that staff followed proper policy and procedures. There was one complaint, which was determined to be founded. There were no program changes and no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

Sola, Inc. – Ms. Nesbitt reported there were no complaints, and no incidents of restraint or seclusion.

The Brambles – Ms. Hardcastle reported that there was one client to client abuse incident. It was determined that staff followed proper policies and procedures. There were no incidents of restraint or seclusion. The new documentation sheet for MAR's was implemented.

New Business

Mr. Walsh requested temporary affiliation for the Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board Therapeutic Day Treatment Program.

Dr. Dorgan, Director of Youth and Family Services, and Ms. Elizabeth Lee, Youth and Family Services Program Developer (both with the MPNN CSB), gave an overview of the Therapeutic Day Treatment Program, which would be provided at Colonial Beach Schools. Dr. Dorgan explained that this program would hopefully prevent out of school placements. The CSB hopes to expand this program to other school systems.

Mr. Reisner moved approval of giving the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board Therapeutic Day Treatment Program temporary affiliation. Mr. Jewell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Nesbitt requested permanent affiliation for two Sola, Inc. programs – The Valley Home Residential Program, and the Villa Day Program Center-Based. She explained that The Valley Program would provide support and services for up to five residents, 18 years or older, ambulatory and non ambulatory. The Villa Day Program would provide services for up to five persons. Consumers would be encouraged to participate in community activities. Two goals of this program would be establishing a recycling program and creating a greenhouse.

Ms. Vest moved approval of granting permanent affiliation for both Sola, Inc. programs. Ms. Link seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Walsh requested continued temporary affiliation for the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board Discovery II Program. He explained that the CSB could not secure the initial property found for this program. We will continue to look for property.

Mr. Reisner moved approval of continuing to grant the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Service Board temporary affiliation for the Discovery II program. Ms. Vest seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Training

Advocate Willie Barnes asked Ms. Joanne Brown to report on the training she attended at Eastern State Hospital. Ms. Brown stated that she thought the training was excellent. The handouts were very helpful. Ms. Brown explained that effective December 1, 2007, compliance is based on practice in accordance with the revised regulations. Revised policies and procedures are to be submitted by March 2008 to the Advocate.

Ms. Barnes reported that the Department of MHMRSAS is conducting training for LHRC members throughout the state on the new regulations. She said that affiliates should have received a DVD on the new regulations. If they did not, they should contact her. They can also watch the Dept. of MHMRSAS website for information. Ms. Barnes said that the Advocates office did not have enough staff to train all committee members. Providers shall verify that their policies and procedures have been changed in accordance with the revised regulations by March 1, 2008. This verification should be sent to Margaret Walsh at the State Human Rights office at the Dept. of MHMRSAS. Providers shall send copies of all human rights policies, including those with revisions based on the new regulations, to their assigned Regional Advocate by March 1, 2008.

Mr. Jewell said that he was disappointed with the training, as much of it was a script that was read to them as it was displayed on a screen. Ms. Link said she thought that the committee members who could not attend the training should receive the information that was distributed. Ms. Barnes noted that the final regulations are not in print yet, however, she would see if she had handouts from the training. Mr. Jewell said that he felt that there should be some responsibility on the Department of MHMRSAS to inform providers of the updated policies and procedures.

Ms. Barnes noted that in the future, when there is a complaint, it will need to be entered into a data base.

Ms. Link suggested that perhaps the MPNN CSB could set up a blog on the computer to post questions and answers pertaining to human rights issues and the new policies and procedures.

Mr. Jewell distributed "A Format for Written Findings & Recommendations of the LHRC", and "A Quick Reference for Conducting a Hearing".

Ms. Hardcastle of Brambles, requested to be placed on the next LHRC meeting agenda to request affiliation for a fourth group home.

Executive Session

On the motion of Ms. Vest, seconded by Mr. Reisner, 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.

Mr. Forrest of Brambles, urged all providers to take caution and to clean everything thoroughly due to the MRSA virus.

Having joined the meeting, Ms. Paige O'Brien and Ms. Kelly Murphy reported that Blue Ridge Residential Services did not have any incidents to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Slaughter
LHRC Administrative Support