

**MIDDLE PENINSULA-NORTHERN NECK
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2012**

Chairman Carl Gerster called the regular meeting of the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee to order at 11:55 a.m. on April 23, 2012 at Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board's Discovery II, in Warsaw, Virginia. Committee members present were: Carl Gerster, Alice Coates, and Bill McConahey. Ms. Hillary Zaneveld, Human Rights Advocate, was also in attendance.

Executive Session

On the motion of Ms. Coates, seconded by Dr. McConahey, the LHRC voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711 – A for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely for the purpose of interviewing Committee candidates and discussion of those candidates.

Ms. Coates moved the Committee return to open session. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Each member of the Committee certified that to the best of each member's knowledge only private business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements and only private business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in Executive Session.

The following agency representatives joined the meeting: Athena Neblitt - Bridges Outpatient, Jack Gronewald - Bridges Inpatient, Keesha Borden – Brothers' Keeper, Kristie McDowell – Heart Havens, Chuck Walsh and Joanne Brown – Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board, Anne Allen - New Day Counseling, Bill Williams – Pathways Counseling Services, Patrizia Nesbitt, Kim Turner, and Stephanie Nesbitt – SOLA, Inc., Stacy Hardcastle and Linda Briggs - The Brambles, Kim Snyder and Gerry Desrosiers – Wall Residences. Gail Slaughter, LHRC Administrative Support, was also in attendance.

Recommendation of Candidates

Ms. Coates moved that a recommendation be made to the State Human Rights Committee that Kathy Powell, Robin Wyatt, and Claudette Henderson be appointed to fill the vacancies on the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Open Forum

There were no items discussed in the Open Forum.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Coates moved that the minutes from the January 23, 2012 meeting and the minutes from the April 3, 2012 meeting be approved. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Mr. Walsh explained that Discovery II is a six bed transitional living facility that has two crisis beds. The home opened about three years ago. The average length of stay for residents is six months. There is little to no funding available for housing for individuals with a mental health or substance use diagnosis. These individuals do not have a waiver, which is used to fund the ID waiver homes. Instead, the CSB uses its own resources to try and fund this type of housing. Presently, both Discovery I and II operate at a deficit.

New Business

Mr. Gronewold of Bridges RGH Inpatient Program requested approval of the Authorized Representative Policy, Informed Consent Policy, and Patient Rights Policy. Ms. Coates moved approval of these policies. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams of Pathways Counseling Services requested approval of their Behavior Management Policies and Procedures, Program Rules of Conduct, and requested affiliation with the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Local Human Rights Committee. Ms. Coates moved approval of these three requests. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Committee members discussed how they wanted to receive information from the affiliates. Ms. Coates and Dr. McConahey both want information emailed to them, and gave Ms. Slaughter permission to give the affiliates their email addresses. Ms. Zaneveld noted that per the Cooperative Agreement, she and the Committee members need quarterly reports from the affiliates at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Ms. Zaneveld said that this information can also be emailed to her as well as the Committee members (as long as there is no identifying information). She requested that any policies that the affiliates want to submit for review and approval be put in the U. S. mail to her. Ms. Coates and Dr. McCohaney said that policies and large documents could be emailed to them, and if it became a problem because of the size of the documents, they would let the affiliates know so that a change could be made in how the information was sent.

Election of Officers

Ms. Coates moved that she be elected Chair of the Committee and that Dr. McConahey be elected as Vice Chair. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Meeting Locations

The following meeting locations were chosen for the dates listed: October 22, 2012, SOLA, Inc., The Valley; January 28, 2013, Bridges of RGH; April 22, 2013, Middle Peninsula Northern Neck CSB.

Event Report Statistics

Bridges of RGH – Structured Outpatient – Ms. Neblitt presented the Quarterly Report data for Bridges of RGH.

Bridges Inpatient – Mr. Gronewald introduced himself to the Committee. He is the new Director of the Bridges Inpatient program. He presented the Quarterly Report data for Bridges Inpatient.

Heart Havens – Ms. McDowell presented the Quarterly Report data for Heart Havens. She said that Heart Havens thirteenth home is tentatively scheduled to open May 5, 2012 in Lynchburg.

Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board – Mr. Walsh presented the Quarterly Report data for the CSB.

SOLA, Inc. – Ms. Turner presented the Quarterly Report data for SOLA, Inc. She reported that SOLA had had a visit from the Office of Human Rights and the Office of Licensing.

The Brambles – Ms. Hardcastle presented the Quarterly and Annual Report data for The Brambles.

Mr. Gerster asked that if an affiliate needed a special meeting to be called, that the affiliate explain why the special meeting was needed.

Wall Residences – Mr. Desrosiers introduced himself to the Committee. He said that he was a Program Coordinator for Wall Residences. He presented the Quarterly Report data for Wall Residences. Mr. Desrosiers said that he had an emergency situation and needed to request affiliation for a provider. Ms. Zaneveld explained that the Committee only needed to be notified when a program is being expanded under an already existing license.

Brothers' Keeper – Ms. Borden presented the Quarterly Report data for Brothers' Keeper. Ms. Zaneveld noted that their Quarterly Report form should state that the quarter is for the period of January – March.

New Day Counseling – Ms. Allen presented Quarterly Report data for the previous reporting period (October – December, 2011), for the current reporting period (January – March), and Annual Report data. Ms. Allen said that her license comes up for review next month.

Empowering Youth for Positive Change – Ms. Hickman was not in attendance. She had contacted Ms. Slaughter to explain why she would not be able to attend and asked that Ms. Slaughter give this message to the Committee.

Ms. Zaneveld explained that the Cooperative Agreement for this Committee states that affiliates must attend four meetings a year. This Committee allows for one absence. If an

affiliate has two absences, Ms. Zaneveld must contact the Office of Licensing to let them know that the affiliate is out of compliance.

Pathways Counseling Services, Wall Residences, and Bridges of RGH executed new Cooperative Agreements, which were also signed by the Chair, Mr. Gerster.

Old Business

Ms. Hardcastle asked that the Committee ratify the recommendation of the Subcommittee (from the call meeting on April 3), approving The Brambles Policy on Protective Restraints. Ms. Coates moved to ratify the recommendation of the Subcommittee. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At the January 23, 2012 LHRC meeting, Ms. Nesbitt requested approval for SOLA, Inc. to add a new location to their existing license for congregate residential services. The Committee had moved approval of her request, with the condition that she send an amended letter to the Committee stating the address of the additional location. Ms. Nesbitt complied with this request, and Committee members confirmed today that they had received the updated letter.

Executive Session

On the motion of Ms. Coates, seconded by Dr. McConahey, the LHRC voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711 – A for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely for the purpose of hearing from Bridges of RGH Inpatient Program, Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board, SOLA, Inc., The Brambles, and Wall Residences for the review of patient information pursuant to the regulations.

Ms. Coates moved that the Committee return to public session. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Each member of the Committee certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, only private business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements and only private business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Slaughter will add "Advocates Report" as an item on each meeting agenda.

Advocate Training

Ms. Zaneveld did not conduct training at this meeting.

Adjourn – There being no further business, Ms. Coates moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. McConahey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Slaughter
LHRC Administrative Support Liaison