

NEWPORT NEWS REGIONAL LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (LHRC)

March 17, 2009

MINUTES

PRESENT:	
Joyce O'Brien	LHRC Member, Chairperson
Louise Beveridge	LHRC Member, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Rosanne Walters	LHRC Member, Secretary
Deborah Elliott	LHRC Member
Stewart Prost	Office of Human Rights
Carey Chappell	Keystone Newport News
Chris Ruble	Keystone Newport News
Jill Adrian	Keystone Newport News
Kerry Dryden	Chessen and Associates
Heather Fisher	Family Solutions
Gregory Smith	Residential Living Options
Michael Bains	Brighter Futures
Patricia Bills	Alexander House
Dawn Clark	Alexander House
Coston Griffin	Alexander House
Allon Wright	Families In New Directions
Rachel Hyson	Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House

ABSENT:	
No Absentees	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joyce O'Brien, Chairperson at 6:10 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the December 9, 2008 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Elliott to approve the minutes with the recommended corrections by Reginald Daye, to page 1 Old Business, A. Keystone Newport News status on renewal of Structured Living Protocol variance, under the Action item. Motion was seconded by Dr. Walters. Vote was taken, all in favor.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Topic: Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House requesting continued temporary affiliation of Girls Group Home

Discussion: Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House requested an additional location for girls ages 12-17 with moderate to serve emotional behavioral problems. Continued temporary affiliation was granted at the December 9, 2008 meeting. Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House is requesting continued temporary affiliation due to pending licensure walk through.

Action: Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House requests continued temporary affiliation for new location (girls group home). A motion was made by Dr. Walters to continue temporary affiliation for new location (girls group home). Motion was seconded by Ms. Beveridge. Vote was taken, all in favor.

B. Topic: Residential Living Options is requesting continued temporary affiliation for Respite Care

Discussion: Respite Care currently falls under Resident Living Options approved policies and procedures for their group home. Continued temporary affiliation was granted at the December 9, 2008 meeting.

Action: Resident Living Options is no longer pursuing affiliation for Respite Care.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Topic: Keystone Newport News to discuss non advertisement of LHRC Board member in local newspaper

December 9, 2008 LHRC Meeting: It was discussed that an advertisement "Want Ad" in the Daily Press looking for a "Consumer" officer to be part of our Newport News Regional Local Human Rights Board was to be created. The affiliates agreed to divide the cost of the advertisement. Ms. Adrian will create the advertisement and e-mail it to all the affiliates and LHRC Board members for their approval prior to the end of December 2008.

March 17, 2009 LHRC Meeting: Ms. Adrian stated that the advertisement "Want Ad" was not written. Ms. Adrian along with other Keystone Newport News representatives (Mr. Ruble and Ms. Chappell) spoke to their CEO Mr. Robert Lehmann and they felt it would be more advantageous to the LHRC if we were to have an Article in the local newspaper about the Newport News Regional LHRC. By having an article in the paper is would also save the affiliates from having to pay. Ms. Adrian apologized for not getting with the affiliates in reference to this decision; however Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Daye were aware of the situation.

Mr. Prost, OHR briefed the committee and affiliates on their current board member status for Newport News Regional LHRC. One member will be rotating off that cannot be reappointed, one "Consumer" vacancy, and one member up for renewal. The State Human Rights Committee guideline states that the LHRCs are required to publically advertise about the committee and board member openings. Mr. Prost stated that an advertisement needs to be built rather quickly and it needs to clearly state the requirements of new board members. He also stated that the affiliates can be looking for new board members. Applications can be obtained from the OHR. Mr. Prost reemphasized his concern in this matter that some type of action needs to be taken quickly and effectively. If the board members fall below three a meeting cannot be conducted and the committee becomes nonfunctional, in turn this affects the affiliates because they are now out of compliance.

Action: Ms. O'Brien asked that Ms. Adrian to build a Press Release about the committee and the need for new board members. The Press Release could be placed into Community Notes or the "Local" Section of newspapers or even Volunteer Centers. Ms. O'Brien asked that after the article is built and reviewed/approved by the board members and affiliates that I forward her the final copy so she can approach her contacts at the local newspaper(s) and volunteer center(s).

- B. Topic: **Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House is seeking approval to change their behavioral intervention policy specifically to discontinue the "therapeutic walk."**
- C. Discussion: Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House is seeking approval to change their behavioral intervention policy specifically to discontinue the "therapeutic walk" due to the outside misinterpretation of the Therapeutic Walk (e.g. assuming staff were forcing the kids to walk).

Action: Motion was made by Dr. Walters to endorse the approval of the removal of the "therapeutic walk" from the behavioral intervention policy. Ms. Beveridge seconded the motion. Vote was taken, all in favor.

V. **ADVOCATE'S REPORT**

Mr. Stewart Prost re-introduced himself to the committee for those who did not have the opportunity to formally meet him prior to the meeting.

Mr. Prost stated that Ms. Gianna Mitchell has resigned from the OHR and relocated to North Carolina. In her place at the OHR will be Brian Whitley. Mr. Whitley will be starting March 25, 2009.

Mr. Prost reviewed our board member status stating that Ms. Beveridge will be leaving the board in June 2009 after completing her second term. Mr. Prost stated that the Newport News Regional LHRC could potentially have three board member openings by the end of June 2009, stressing again the seriousness of this issue.

The big issue right now is the proposal to close the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) and the Southeastern Virginia Training Center. Both of these programs were proposed to be closed per the government's budget. Not too many details about the CCCA but that it will stay open but reduced in size. Current General Assembly proposal is that Southeastern Virginia Training Center will remain open but be downsized from 162 residents to 75 and that money be put into the community to build smaller care centers for the mentally retarded and waiver group homes. This issue is currently before the Governor.

Another proposal in front of the General Assembly is the name change to: Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

In general the OHR has had a couple individuals leave, however no individuals have left from our region, because our region is the 2nd busiest. Currently there are 24 LHRCs in this region and the OHR anticipates setting up two more with all the new programs coming on board, both to be located on the Peninsula.

Mr. Prost will be serving as our technical advisor until further notice.

Mr. Prost stated to the board that a special meeting may need to be held for the purpose of hiring a new board member. All board members agreed and are willing to have a special meeting in order to appoint any additional members.

Mr. Prost ended his report by providing FOIA / Meeting Minute training to the LHRC board members and Ms. Adrian. The affiliates stayed for the training due to the importance of the data/training being provided.

VI. STANDING REPORTS

Topic: **General Information**

Discussion: Affiliates were asked to bring any issues that include resident information to be heard in the closed session.

Action: Reports were received from all affiliate programs in attendance. A summary is attached.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comment was made by the Allon Wright, Families in New Directions:

- Mr. Wright stated that he will help Ms. Adrian with the Press Release about our LHRC and the need for additional board members.

The following comments were made by the Chris Ruble, Keystone Newport News:

- Mr. Ruble stated that Mr. Robert Lehmann, CEO at Keystone Newport News will be resigning after over 15 years will the organization.
- Mr. Ruble emphasized how Keystone Newport News is working hard to positively motivate residents by using short term goals through a new program called Keystone Nation.

The following comment was made by the Deborah Elliott, LHRC Board Member:

- The Cultural and Linguistic steering committee is currently working on providing a guidebook on implementing Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). To learn more about CLAS Ms. Elliott asked the board members and affiliates to go to <http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/ohrdm-clc.htm>.

VIII. MEETING SCHEDULE 2009: June 9 / September 8 / December 8

IX. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Executive Session, pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711-A (4), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely to review patient information from Residential Living Options, Family Solutions, Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House, and Keystone Newport News pursuant to the regulations.

Ms. Elliot made a motion to go into closed session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss issues evident in reports from Residential Living Options, Family Solutions, Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House, and Keystone Newport News. The motion was seconded by Ms. Beveridge and unanimously approved.

X. RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION

Motion: Upon reconvening in Open Session at 9:00 p.m., each member of the LHRC certified to the best of their knowledge, that only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements and only private business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in accordance to the VA Code 2.2-3711-A (4).

XI. LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Residential Living Options:

- No recommendations

Family Solutions:

- No recommendations

Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House:

- No recommendations

Keystone Newport News:

- No recommendations

XII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next regular LHRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Keystone Newport News.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joyce O'Brien, Chairperson

JO/ja