

NEWPORT NEWS REGIONAL LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (LHRC)

September 23, 2010

MINUTES

PRESENT:	
Deborah Elliott	LHRC Member, Co-Chairperson
Robin Rukin	LHRC Member, Secretary
Christine Pearce	LHRC Member
Stewart Prost	Office of Human Rights
Patricia Burnette	Office of Human Rights
Chris Ruble	Newport News Behavioral Health Services
Carey Chappell	Newport News Behavioral Health Services
Jill Adrian	Newport News Behavioral Health Services
Kerry Dryden	Chessen and Associates
Heather Fisher	Family Solutions
Tenisha Charles	Residential Living Options
Teresa James	Brighter Futures
Patricia Bills	Alexander House
ABSENT:	
Felicia Tyler	LHRC Member, Chairperson

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Elliott, Co-Chairperson at 2:05pm.

II. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes for the June 8, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Elliott to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rukin. 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**

Action: Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia's House is no longer affiliated with Newport News Regional Local Human Rights Committee (NNRLHRC), per Ms. Kristi Sauls, Family First of Virginia Beach/Lydia House.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS – No New Business**

V. **ADVOCATE'S REPORT**

- Mr. Prost introduced the Ms. Patricia Burnette to the committee. Ms. Burnette is the new member of the OHR. Ms. Burnette will be working most of the time at Eastern State Hospital. Ms. Burnette has not yet been assigned to any specific Local Human Rights Committees. The OHR is very happy to welcome Ms. Burnette onboard.

- Mr. Prost stated that the NNRLHRC is currently in good shape with their board members. An additional “General” board member is still needed. Mr. Robert Thompson has applied through the OHR and has come for a special executive meeting with OHR and the NNRLHRC board members to be interviewed as a potential candidate.
- Mr. Prost went over the current board members terms and it was stated that all board members were in their 1st term, so in turn they have the opportunity to serve a 2nd term. Ms. Elliot’s 1st term is up in Spring 2011. If Ms. Elliot wishes to serve a 2nd term she would need to contact the OHR to fill out the appropriate forms.
- Mr. Prost emphasized to the NNRLHRC board members the importance of attending scheduled meeting in order to have a quorum. However it is understood that the NNRLHRC board members are volunteers and we appreciate the time and effort they give to our committee. We just ask in return that if they are unable to attend a meeting they advise us (OHR and/or the hosts Newport News Behavioral Health Center) in advance so arrangement can be made to reschedule the meeting in a timely manner.
- There are an increasing number of community programs seeking affiliation to the LHRCs. There may be one seeking affiliation with the NNRLHRC prior to the next meeting. If this would occur the NNRLHRC board members would receive a letter requesting affiliation and a package containing a description of their services, Behavioral Management Policies, and Program Rules. The board members would review the Program Rules but they need to approve the Behavioral Management Polices.
- Mr. Prost asked if anyone had questions. The following was posed by Mr. Ruble, Newport News Behavioral Health Center.
 - Mr. Ruble stated to the committee that on the Virginia Town Hall website there have been several proposed changes to the Human Rights Regulations and that they are going to come under a period of public comment starting October 14th. Mr. Ruble contacted the office and spoke to an employee in that department coordinating the process; and found out that it is an individual in the Commonwealth making these recommendations. Mr. Ruble went on to state that one of the changes being proposed would be challenging, making internet access a right. Mr. Ruble asked the other Affiliates to go onto the Virginia Town Hall website and look at the proposed changes.
 - Mr. Ruble also stated that as the Human Rights Regulations are revised he would like to see a focus group created with the affiliates to discuss the rights issues when treating children as compared to adults. It would be a valuable opportunity to make improvements to the regulations.

VI. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION:

- Discussion: Board members of the NNRLHRC and OHR interviewed Mr. Robert Thompson for the appointment of NNRLHRC board member.
- Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Elliott to recommend that the Virginia State Human Rights Committee appoint Mr. Robert Thompson as a board member to the NNRLHRC. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rukin. Vote was taken, all in favor.

VII. 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 read aloud and received from all affiliates in attendance.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comment was made by Mr. Ruble, Newport News Behavioral Health Services:

- Mr. Ruble spoke to the committee about the 3% Virginia Medicaid rate reduction July 1, 2010 due to economic troubles. Once Federal Medical Assistance Program finally makes it through Congress, effective October 1st restoring that 3%, which would be great news. However if nothing changes we'll be facing a 4% rate reduction July 1, 2011.

The following comment was made by Ms. Elliott, NNRLHRC Board Member:

- Ms. Elliot stated that due to the surveys and inspections currently being conducted at Eastern State Hospital, she asks that everyone stay vigilant within their own organizational internal self inspections.

The following comment was made by Ms. Rukin, NNRLHRC Board Member:

- Ms. Rukin stressed the importance of staying abreast and in touch with our State Representatives throughout the whole year, letting them know how important our services are to the community and the welfare of the families we serve.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: At 2:30m Ms. Rukin moved that the LHRC go into executive session, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-371(A), for the protection of privacy of individuals and their records in personal matters not related to public business, namely to conduct a hearing pursuant to the Regulations, namely to review serious incidents from Residential Living Options, Family Solutions, and Newport News Behavioral Health Services. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. Vote was taken, all in favor.

IX. RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION

Motion: At 3:20pm a motion was made by Ms. Rukin to reconvene into Open Session. Motion seconded by Ms. Elliott along with making the following statement, "each member shall certify that to the best of their knowledge that matters only 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, discussed, or considered."

X. LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Residential Living Options:

- To review the Virginia Code regarding APS mandatory reporting and reporters; to report/consult incident to APS; and to review Program policies. To provide follow-up report status of founded (by Provider) incident, and regarding recommendations at December 14th meeting.

Family Solutions:

- No recommendations

Newport News Behavioral Health Services:

- No recommendations

XI. MEETING SCHEDULE 2010 (2:00-4:00pm): December 14

XII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next regular LHRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 2:00pm at Newport News Behavioral Health Services.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Elliot adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Deborah Elliott, Co-Chairperson

DE/ja