

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on May 13, 2008 at NW Works at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2008 LHRC MEETING

The March 11, 2008 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Lutheran Family Services in Winchester, VA.

Members Present: Ms. Greta Doering, Ms. Mary Louise Mattingly, and Ms. Nancy Cartier. **Members Absent:** Ms. Jean Snider and Mr. Fred Sabia.

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Tina Farmer (SVCR); Amy Smith and Ed Hoefle (Grafton); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Elizabeth Rust, Heidi Fields, Denise Britt (Family Preservation Services); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Kristian, Curt Sawyer, Angel, Tamara (A Place To Call Home); Theresa Bistel (DePaul Family Services); Dawn VanMetre (Community Alternatives VA); John Brauer, Glenda Anderson (NW Works); Rick Provenzano (Crossroads Counseling); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corp); Gar Greer (Heart Havens, Inc.); Cassie Phipps, Lynn Kauffman (Lutheran Family Services); Paul Scardino. (National Counseling Group, Inc.); Cathy Wolf-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision & Counseling); Pam Banks, Greg Strosnider (Rose Memorial Foundation); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Doering called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M., and welcomed all in attendance. She thanked Ms. Phipps/Lutheran Family Services for providing refreshments. All affiliates introduced themselves and briefly highlighted activities going on in their respective programs.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2008 and Ms. Mattingly seconded, the motion carried.

Public comments: None

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins apologized for any confusion regarding the March 1st submission of the required human rights plan updates. It had been communicated initially that affiliates could simply indicate that the updates were completed. Since that time, however, the Office of Human Rights asked to have the updates submitted. Those who were not able to submit them within the timeframe had been granted an extension. Affiliates are reminded that an approved human rights plan is one critical condition for obtaining or maintaining DMHMRSAS licensure.

Mr. Collins will be doing a Human Rights Training at NW Works on March 26 from 1 to 3. Ms. Hurt reported that her group will be attending a training in Roanoke given by Margaret Walsh the first of April. Mr. Collins urged everyone to send at least one person from their program.

Mr. Collins participated in a task force reporting to the General Assembly regarding possible changes in the state's mental health laws. As predicted, the language regarding the threshold for involuntary commitment will be changed from "imminent" to "likelihood" of danger to oneself or others. This may expand the number of individuals eligible for involuntary commitment. It also increases the safety net available to protect our most fragile citizens. However, there have been no additional beds identified to meet a potentially increasing demand for those services. This may result in more outpatient commitments.

Mr. Collins also noted the following: (1) The new language also allows for more efficient sharing of information between agencies; (2) He feels that the new psychotropic meds, PAC teams, and psychosocial rehabs are becoming critically important in managing individuals on an outpatient basis; (3) Ms. Cartier was featured in the last issue of the State Human Rights magazine. Nancy was able to attend a rally in Richmond, which she enjoyed very much.

There was discussion around the possible new Medicaid changes for case management. Currently, case management is one of two services that CSBs were mandated to perform. The other is Crisis Services.

Mr. Seymour also apologized for the confusion in the updates of the policies and procedures. He did visit programs today and did find that they were updated.

He announced that Shenandoah Valley Behavioral Center had voluntarily closed after being in operation for 7 or 8 months. He commended the children/adolescent programs for keeping their programs operating at full capacity. Mr. Rousseau reported that he had received 38 referrals in the last 3 weeks.

Program Reports:

Bridging the Gaps – committee had received the report from Ms. Wiitala but because of unavoidable circumstances, she was not able to attend this meeting. The committee voted to table her report and ask that she report at the May meeting.

Crossroads Counseling Services – Mr. Provenzano reported on the services the program provides. The agency had expanded and opened a Therapeutic Foster Care program and began providing Mental Health Support Services. There had been no citations in the last year and a new office had opened in Culpeper.

Community Alternatives VA – Ms. VanMetre reported that they had added two new group homes. See the written report for citations and corrective actions taken. Mr. Seymour commended Ms. VanMetre on dealing with a very difficult young lady with a hearing impairment. She has been moved to appropriate placement.

DePaul Family Services – Ms. Bistel reported that there was still just the 1 client in this area. There have been no citations for this catchment area.

Program Reviews:

Family Preservation Services – Ms. Fields reported to the committee their intention of adding Mental Health Community Support Services to their continuum of care.

Blue Ridge Opportunities – Ms. Heberle informed the committee that her program would like to add DD Waiver services.

Shenandoah Valley Community Residences – Ms. Farmer reported that they would be opening a new group home.

Lutheran Family Services – Ms. Phipps reported that they are applying for foster care services and therapeutic day treatment services.

Ms. Partlowe will provide a letter to both Blue Ridge Opportunities and SVCR stating that they are in good standing and affiliated with the LHRC. This letter is needed as part of the application process to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting will be on May 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at NW Works in Winchester.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 to convene into Executive Session

Executive Session: Ms. Cartier moved that the LHRC convene into closed session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(4). Ms. Mattingly seconded and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Gail R. Partlowe, NWCSB Administrative Assistant

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison