

## Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on September 11th at Winchester Medical Center in Front Royal at **6:00 p.m.**

### MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2007 LHRC MEETING

The July 17, 2007 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Blue Ridge Opportunities in Front Royal, VA.

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

**Others Present:** Mark Seymour (Advocates); Mark Gleason (NWCS); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith (Grafton); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Cassie Phipps (Family Preservation Services); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Kristian, Curt Sawyer, Connie Kinsley (A Place To Call Home); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Greg Strosnider and David Jennings (?)(Rose Memorial); Theresa Bistel (DePaul Family Services); Joe Herbert and Michael West (Community Alternatives of VA); Linda Baldwin (Lord Fairfax House); John Dove and Randy Rizer (NW Works); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco Industries), Sue Gritzinger (Winchester Medical Center); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

**Call To Order:** Ms. Doering, LHRC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed all in attendance. She thanked Blue Ridge Opportunities for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Mrs. Doering stated that she attended the Timber Ridge open house recently, and that the new facility at the school was great.

**Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Sabia made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

**Comments by Affiliates:** Ms. Tompkins stated that when the next meeting is scheduled at Timber Ridge, it will be held in a classroom in the new facility.

**Advocate Update:** Mr. Collins sends his regrets for not being able to attend the LHRC meeting. Mr. Seymour covered a number of issues, including:

1. The new regulations are still awaiting Governor Kaine's signature.
2. A LHRC seminar has tentatively been scheduled for September 13 & 14 in Richmond. If the new regulations have been signed, these will be gone over, if not, the old ones will be reviewed. Because of limited space, only members will be invited to attend.
3. After the new regulations become effective, there will be a grace period during which all LHRC affiliates will have to modify there existing human

- rights regulations. The grace period has not been defined, but will likely accompany the announcement for the regulations.
4. Mr. Collins has been working with various affiliates on complaints or allegations of human rights violations. All are being appropriately managed.
  5. Mr. Seymour noted that Northwestern LHRC affiliates are usually the first reporters of any allegations or complaints. He thanked the affiliates for being proactive in this regard.
  6. Various commissions and taskforces continue to review Virginia's mental health laws and procedures. The work of these groups spans issues resulting from the Virginia Tech tragedy, as well as basic issues related to Emergency Custody and Temporary Detention Orders. Included within these issues are considerations related to basic human rights of residents of the commonwealth. Much focus will be paid to any legislation placed before the general assembly early in 2008.

### **Review of Programs:**

**Wall Residences:** The LHRC has granted Wall Residence a temporary three month affiliation for a program Ms. Hurt is starting in Fauquier County beginning October 1. Ms. Cartier made a motion to grant the temporary affiliations, as well as a January review to determine if time frame need should be extended. Ms. Snider seconded and the motion passed. Ms. Hurt also presented the case of an individual whose seizure disorder will require the use of a helmet. The LHRC and Human Rights Advocate determined that the individual does have the option to remove the helmet, thus its use is therefore not considered "restrictive" under the human rights regulations. While not requiring formal approval by the LHRC, the committee agreed to formally endorse the helmet at the request of the Human Rights Advocate. Ms. Mattingly made said motion and Ms. Cartier seconded. The motion carried.

**Grafton:** Ms. Doering thanked Mr. Sabia for providing the minutes for the meeting at Grafton on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith, Grafton School, reported that the hand held audio/video monitors discussed during the last LHRC meeting had been installed. The staff and parents were pleased with the technology, the dignity it allowed, and the increased safety it provided. The fence viewed during the May 29<sup>th</sup> visit is not completed, but the clubhouse is open. Grafton students are able to earn credits as treatment goals are achieved, and the "debit" cards are being used by students to purchase what he or she wants.

**Rose Memorial:** Mr. Strosnider reported that the restrictive procedure approved at the last LHRC meeting is still in place. The restrictive clothing will be replaced by regular clothing over the next several weeks. He is to report back to the committee at the next meeting on the outcome.

**A Place To Call Home:** Ms. Sawyer reported that they were opening a new facility on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They already have their 4 clients and it will have the same name. Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the new facility and Ms. Snider seconded, the motion carried.

Ms. Sawyer advised the LHRC of a client whose water intake had to be restricted due to health reasons. The 2000 cc daily restriction is part of a doctor's order, and does not infringe upon the rights of other clients.

**Community Alternatives of Virginia:** The committee received an update regarding matters discussed during the last LHRC meeting. CAV is continuing to establish the capacity issue, but that the immediacy of the issue is no longer present. Other issues have yet to be resolved. CAV will report back at the next LHRC meetings. The tracking device discussed during the last meeting has been implemented, and the client has no issues related to wearing the device.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Mr. Gleason referred to a hand out on tracking devices that could be implanted into shoes. This would not be as restrictive as other devices.

**Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting:** The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for September 11 at Winchester Medical Center in the Pete Johnson Board Room at 6:00.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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

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Gretta Doering, Chair

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Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison