

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be at Northwestern Community Services on September 12, 2006 a 6:00 p.m. Directions are attached.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2006 LHRC MEETING

The July 18, 2006 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Timber Ridge School, located in Winchester, Virginia.

Members Present: Gretta Doering, Chair; Jean Snider; and Nancy Cartier.

Members Absent: Fred Sabia and Mary Louise Mattingly

Others Present: Mark Seymour (Advocate); Mark Gleason (Liaison); Debra Young (SVCR); Karen Given (NWCSB); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Curt Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Kristian Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Kevin Young (Valley Health); Holly Kyle (Rose Memorial); Glenda Anderson (NW Works); John Brauer (NW Works); Mickey Duncan (Shen-Paco); Julie Neese (Shen-Paco); Jim Gaynor (Grafton); Amy Smith (Grafton); Kim Sanders (Grafton); John Lamana (Timber Ridge); Jeff Phillips (Timber Ridge); Dick Braatz (Warren County Workshop); Justine Waits (Lutheran Family Services); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives/Virginia); Rick Provenzano (Crossroads Counseling Center); and Gail Partlowe (NWCSB).

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Doering, Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked Timber Ridge for hosting the meeting. Ms. Doering asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Snider motioned to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting and Ms. Cartier seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Comments by Affiliates: There were no comments by affiliates.

Advocate Update: Mr. Seymour introduced Ms. Justine Waits of Lutheran Family Services who explained the proposed change to their Human Rights policy. The revision involved specifying a maximum allowable time frame for physical restrains based on the age of the client involved. Mr. Seymour recommended to the committee that this was a good change. Ms. Snider motioned to accept the change and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Seymour reported to the group that Grafton was implementing safeguards for their group homes. Ms. Sanders reported that they had four homes, costing approximately \$5,000 per home, that the new monitoring system was being installed in. A wrist watch type device would be worn by the client and the staff member would have a small monitoring device specific to that client. When the client reached the limit of their distance range, the staff member would be alarmed. The client and staff monitoring devices were approximately \$300.00 each. There would be no alarm for the client, only a blinking red light. Further information can be obtained from the website – www.ion-kids.com. After much discussion, Mr. Gleason asked that a report be given to the committee in six months regarding the success/issues with the new system. Mr. Seymour recommended that the committee accept this new system. Ms. Snider made a motion to accept and Ms. Cartier seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Seymour reported in Mr. Collins' absence that he had reviewed several cases in the area and all had good outcomes.

Mr. Seymour asked Mr. Gleason for an update on Northwestern's closing of the Community House and the PIE Program. Mr. Gleason stated that there had been a lot of bad press coverage concerning Community House. Community House was a psychosocial program in Winchester but the other program in New Market, Sunshine House, was doing very well. The agency is assisting in opening a peer run program, that is, a program where the clients make the decisions of what they want to do. A site has already been found, waiting on final approval before making the public announcement. Similar peer run programs have been visited by the members and 1 staff member from Community House will remain for six months to assist the members. Mr. Gleason reported to the committee that Part C had still not found an agency. NW has developed a new program providing case management services to the PIE population and continues to be in touch with the clients. The staff member who dealt with Part C has been hired directly by Part C to help with the process and transition. He feels that Part C will make a decision by September. He will keep the committee informed.

Mr. Seymour introduced Mr. Jeff Phillips of Timber Ridge School who reported on their Behavioral Management System. Mr. Seymour stated that Timber Ridge did deal with a very challenging group of males. Mr. Phillips said that staff has been trained and was always being monitored due to changes in trends, individuals, etc. He also stated that this system paralleled with their mission statement.

Mr. Seymour reported that the new regulations were still on the governor's desk and the current "blue book" would continue to be used. The LHRC seminar that was scheduled for September has been postponed, maybe in the spring when the new regulations have been approved. As of July 1, all LHRC approved meeting minutes should be sent to Margaret Walsh for her to post on the department's website. They can also be posted on the CSB's site as well.

Program Reviews by the LHRC:

Warren County Workshop – Mr. Dick Braatz
Community Alternatives/Virginia – Brian Kesner
Shen-Paco – Mickey Duncan
Heart Havens – unable to be attend. Will present at the September meeting.

Old Business: Ms. Debra Young of SVCR reported that their individual discussed regarding restraints had been medically released with no restraints.

New Business: Mr. Gleason stated that all of the programs had presented and asked the committee if they wanted to start the process over. It was decided that they would continue to hear from each program only if there had been changes, citations, restraint issues, etc. Of course, new programs would do the full report. The current information sent to each program will be modified. Mr. Gleason asked Ms. Hurt to give a brief description of the new services she will be providing on behalf of Wall Residences. She also stated that she had information regarding “Partnership with People with Disabilities”. The group could see her for further information.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2006, location to be decided.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison