

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on November 18 at Grafton's Ruth Birch Center at **6:00** p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 LHRC MEETING

The September 9, 2008 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Good Life Corporation in New Market, Va.

Members Present: Ms. Jean Snider, Ms. Jeanne Decker, Mr. Fred Sabia and Ms. Nancy Cartier. **Member Absent:** Ms. Gretta Doering

Others Present: Chuck Collins (Advocate); Mark Seymour (Advocate); Mark Gleason (Liaison/NWCS); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corporation); Greg Strosnider (Rose Memorial); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Amy Smith, Kim Sanders and Dana Papke (Grafton); Elizabeth Rust (Family Preservation Services); Michael West (Community Alternatives VA); Cassie Phipps (Lutheran Family Services); Donna VanSickler (National Counseling Group, Inc.); Bill North (Bridging the Gaps); Maureen Cholewka (Blue Ridge Residential Services); Kristian and Curt Sawyer (A Place To Call Home); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mark Stavrou, Stephen Lewis and Jeff Haddix (NOVA Family Services, Inc.); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); and Gail Partlowe (NWCS).

Call To Order: Ms. Snider called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. She thanked Clif and Good Life for hosting the meeting. All LHRC affiliates in attendance introduced themselves, and provided any updates regarding their agency. .

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

Public comments: None

Advocate Update: Mr. Collins reported on the severe budget cuts that will be coming from the governor's office. Positions have been deleted at Western State. He commented on a case involving Western State that has been in the newspapers recently regarding a client at Western State and how that LHRC was involved. The end result was that the client was moved to the Northern Virginia area where he could be closer to his family and receive treatment/counseling from Spanish speaking therapists.

As of July 1 changes in the mental health statutes has made it easier for someone to be committed. Virginia was 1 of 10 states with very strict laws. From data seen from the area hospitals, the spike that was expected has not yet been seen.

Mr. Seymour stated that more children are now going to acute care facilities and not being sent to residential settings.

Program Reports:

Northwestern Community Services – Mark Gleason

Rose Memorial Foundation – Greg Strosnider, he will submit a written report prior to the next meeting

Shen Paco – Mickie Duncan, this report will be discussed in Executive Session.

Program Reviews: Mr. Collins congratulated Blue Ridge Opportunities for being chosen by the Warren County Chamber of Commerce as the Nonprofit of the Year award. That program has certainly seen a major turnaround over the last year.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Mark Stavrou of NOVA Family Services, Inc. requested affiliation for his program. He provided information to the committee concerning his program and services he will provide. Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept affiliation with NOVA Family Services and Ms. Decker seconded. The motion carried. Mr. Stavrou will sign the Affiliation Agreement and has paid the \$50.00 fee.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2008 at Grafton’s Ruth Birch Center. 2009’s meetings are as follows: January 13, 2009 at Lutheran Family Services; March 10, 2009 at NW Works; May 12, 2009 at Winchester Medical Center; July 14, 2009 at Timber Ridge School; September 8, 2009 at Northwestern Community Services; and November 10, 2009 at Grafton.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 to convene into Executive Session

Executive Session: Ms. Snider motioned 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. Decker seconded and the motion was approved.

Executive Session was adjourned at 8:10

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

Gretta Doering, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison

