

Petersburg Regional
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2009

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Mike Nichols, LHRC Member
Ms. Isabel Vartanian, LHRC Member
Ms. Michaele McKeever-Davis, LHRC Member
Mr. Steven Watkins, LHRC Member

Committee Members Absent

Dr. LeAnn Binger, LHRC Member

Affiliate Members Present:

Ms. Kimberly Lindblad, Specialized Youth Services of Virginia, Inc.,
LHRC staff support and Affiliate
Ms. Brenda Hill-Bland, River City Residences, LLC, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Lashanda Powell, Triumph Residential Services, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Jerry Von Poks, Poplar Springs Hospital, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Daniel Herr, Gateway Homes, LHRC Affiliate
Name unknown, Empowerment Clinical Services, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Eunice Blackwell, Savannah's House, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Lola Shodeinde, Amazings Grace, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Victoria Gbedgo, Amazings Grace, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Angelique Brown, FamMat Services, LLC, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Catherine Harrison, Jireh House, LLC, LHRC Affiliate

Affiliate Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Ms. Carrie Flowers, Residential Advocate, Office of Human Rights
Ms. Arleatha M. Simms, Simms Children Assistance Services, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Wilma C. Mullins, DBS Family Services, Inc., Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Frances Hubbard, DBS Family Services, Inc., Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Evalina Powell, DBS Family Services, Inc., Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Beverly Banks, DBS Family Services, Inc., Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Margaret Gwynn, A & C Alternative Care, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Cheryl Wright, A & C Alternative Care, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Daryl Jefferson, We Care Residential Services, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Mario Haskett, R.E.A.P., LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Shirletta Highsmith, R.E.A.P., LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate

I. Call to Order

- a) Mr. Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

II. Approval of the minutes

- a) Ms. Vartanian motioned to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2009 and March 11, 2009 meetings with one change to the March minutes (end time of meeting “am”, not “pm”); Ms. Michele McKeever-Davis seconded the motion.

III. Public Comments

- a) There were no public comments

IV. New Business

- a) Simms Children Assistance Services requested affiliation with the committee. Ms. Simms described the program as a residential group home for 8 boys 13-17.5 y.o., with mental retardation as the primary diagnosis. Staff to client ratio will be 1 to 4 respectively. The program will provide skills training to the youth in all areas. The program is located in Emporia, Va. Ms. McKeever-Davis motioned to approve affiliation; Steven Watkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b) DBS Family Services, Inc. requested affiliation with the committee. Ms. Wilma Mullins described the program as a 5 bed residential home for MR clients. Primary funding source will be MR waiver funds. Clients will be 18 years or older, male and female, and admission is voluntary. Clients are MR and the focus will be on teaching the clients daily living skills, as well as the provision of 24-7 monitoring/supervision, community activities, and skills training. Rule out criteria include sex offenders, violent offenders, fire starters (recent history). Ms. Isabel Vartanian motioned to approve affiliation; Ms. McKeever-Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c) A & C Alternative Care, LLC requested affiliation with the committee. Ms. Margaret Gwynn described the program as serving adults and youth (7 y.o. and up) with intellectual disabilities, developmental, and mental health issues. This service is described as intensive in-home counseling provided between the hours of 6am and 10pm; service delivery is on a One to One basis. The program operates out of Emporia, Va. and primary source of funding is DD waiver/MR waiver. Ms. Isabel Vartanian motioned to approve affiliation; Steven Watkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- d) R.E.A.P. requested affiliation with the committee. Mr. Haskins (of R. E.A.P. “Recognizing Excellence by Accepting your Power”) described the program as in-school counseling (day treatment) in the public school setting. Primary source of funding is Medicaid and services include psychotherapeutic interventions and individual counseling. Program is in Richmond/Chesterfield area and minimum IQ of clients is 65. Age range of clients served is 5 y.o. to 18 y.o.; clients receive as much as 6 hours of services per day in the school and the program also offers summer programming. Criteria for admission include they must demonstrate certain self-destructive or disruptive behaviors; diagnoses include ADHD, Disruptive Disorder, Conduct Disorder, etc. Ms. McKeever-Davis motioned to approve affiliation; Ms. Isabel Vartanian seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- e) We Care Residential requested affiliation with the committee. Daryl Jefferson described the program as a residential home adult males, ages 21 to 23 y.o. Maximum number of clients is 8; staff to client ratio is 1 to 4 respectively. The program is located in Henrico County and provides daily living instruction/support, money management, skills training, etc. Primary funding source is Medicaid waiver. Clients will receive services both individually and in a group setting. GAF score must be 50 or above. Clients must be ambulatory. Exclusionary criteria include that they must be free from communicable illnesses and they cannot be hearing impaired. Primary source of funding is Medicaid; cases can be privately funded. Steven Watkins motioned to approve affiliation; Ms. McKeever-Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- f) Each new affiliate will need to send a set of their policies and procedures (with human rights implications) to the committee members by August 1, 2009; next meeting is set for August 12, 2009.
- g) Ms. Lashanda Powell, of Triumph Residential Services, requested approval from the committee to add Adult Day Support services to her array of services. The program will focus on providing services to adults in Petersburg, Va. with MR/MH issues. This program will serve a maximum of 16 adults, in both center and non-center-based settings. The program will provide community integration and training in the area of personal care, socialization, etc. Ms. Isabel Vartanian

motioned to approve the addition of day support services; Ms. McKeever-Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

- a) none

VI. Advocate's Report

- a) Ms. Flowers clarified that if you are an Intensive In-home provider, providing services outside the immediate region in which you are located and affiliated, you must affiliate with additional committees in the regions (outside of your own) if you provide services in those other regions. Additionally, providers can't expand their services to other regions if they are on conditional or provisional licenses
- b) This committee is now full and will accept no additional affiliates (15 total now affiliated).
- c) Dr. Binger's last night as a committee member is tonight; thanks to Dr. Binger for her dedicated service to the committee.
- d) Each affiliate is responsible to attempt to recruit additional members for the Committee; contact Ms. Flowers for the application. She can mail them or email them at your request.

VII. Affiliate Reports

- Savannah's House
- Triumph Residential
- Jireh House, LLC
- Empowerment Clinical Consulting Services
- FamMat Services, LLC
- Gateway Homes
- Specialized Youth Services of Va., Inc.
- Poplar Springs Hospital
- River City Residences
- Amazings Grace

VIII. Closed Session

- a) A motion was made that the LHRC go into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 for the purpose of reviewing the details of the Provider Reports. Mr. Nichols motioned to go into Closed Session; Ms.

McKeever-Davis seconded the motion.

- b) Upon reconvening into open session, the Local Human Rights Committee certified that only business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.
- c) Roll Call: Ms. Isabel Vartanian, so certified; Mr. Steven Watkins, so certified; Mr. Michael Nichols, so certified; Ms. Michaelae McKeever-Davis, so certified.

IX. Other Business

- a) There was no other business.

X. Adjournment

- a) The LHRC meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm. The next regularly scheduled LHRC meeting will be held on August 12, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Poplar Springs Hospital private dining room. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm. The last meeting scheduled for the coming year is as follows: October 14, 2009.