

Petersburg Regional
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2009

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Isabel Vartanian, LHRC Member (arrived late)
Ms. Michaele McKeever-Davis, LHRC Member
Mr. Michael Nichols, LHRC Member

Committee Members Absent

Mr. Steven Watkins, LHRC Member

Affiliate Members Present:

Ms. Kimberly Lindblad, Specialized Youth Services of Virginia, Inc.,
LHRC staff support and Affiliate
Mr. Ron Wallace, River City Residences, LLC, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Lashanda Powell, Triumph Residential Services, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Tamika Myrick, Triumph Residential Services, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Daniel Herr, Gateway Homes, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Eunice Blackwell, Savannah's House, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Victoria Gbedgo, Amazings Grace, LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Catherine Harrison, Jireh House, LLC, LHRC Affiliate
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. Margaret Gwynn, A & C Alternative Care, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Cheryl Wright, A & C Alternative Care, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Michael Wright, A & C Alternative Care, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Ms. Shirletta Highsmith, R.E.A.P., LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Kenneth Heath, FamMat Services, LLC, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Rudy Jackson, ECCS, LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Jerry Von Poks, Poplar Springs Hospital, LHRC Affiliate

Affiliate Members Absent:

Mr. Paul DeBerry, We Care Residential Services, LLC, Prospective LHRC Affiliate

Others Present:

Ms. Carrie Flowers, Residential Advocate, Office of Human Rights
Ms. Beverly Garnes, Human Rights Manager, Office of Human Rights
Ms. Marie Parker, LHRC Member Applicant
Ms. Debbie Mehl, Jackson Field Homes, prospective LHRC Affiliate
Mr. Jerome Cradle, Public Guest

I. Call to Order

- a) Mr. Michael Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Due to there being no quorum, official business was not (initially) conducted.

II. Approval of the minutes

- a) Ms. McKeever-Davis indicated one change would need to be made in order to approve the August 2009 minutes. On the last page of the minutes, the final meeting for 2010 will be held in October of 2010 (as opposed to October 2009).

III. Public Comments

- a) Mr. Herr of Gateway Homes thanked Ms. Marie Parker for her interest in membership on the committee. Also, *Friends for Recovery* is a consumer-run organization that could possibly identify consumers interested in committee membership. If approved through the LHRC and SHRC, these individuals could fill the seats on the committee reserved for consumers. Former consumers of currently affiliated programs can be approved as members of the committee, according to Ms. Flowers and Ms. Garnes. The definition of “consumer” is an individual who has received mental health services in the past but is not currently receiving services. Ms. Lindblad will contact the organization to enquire about interest in the committee and committee membership.

IV. New Business

- a) Ms. Gbedgo of Amazings Grace requested to affiliate an additional home. The home would provide group home services to adolescents ages 15 to 21, with IQ scores below 70. Members requested changes to the brochure to be more specific regarding which professionals will administer medication by injection (i.e. Licensed RN or LPN) as well as adjust language in the brochure (to omit “by mouth”) and to state that medications are administered according to doctors’ orders. Ms. Gbedgo was asked to submit the revised items to the OHR, for their review.

V. Old Business

- a) No old business was conducted.

VI. Advocate’s Report

- a) Ms. Flowers provided a notice to all committee members reference training scheduled for October 30, 2009, at SVTC. All LHRC members are required to

attend training annually to learn more about fulfilling their duties as committee members.

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
- Simms Children Assistance Services
- A & C Alternative Care, LLC
- DBS Family Services, Inc.
- R.E.A.P., LLC
- CVA Family Services (We Care Residential) (absent)
- Michelle approved, Isabell seconded

VIII. Closed Session

- a) Committee members reviewed the resume and application for Ms. Marie Parker, who is applying to be a member of the Petersburg Regional-LHRC.

IX. Other Business

- a) The committee discussed that there appears to have been an error with regard to the application submitted by Ms. Debbie Mehl of Jackson Field Homes. Ms. Mehl is requesting to affiliate a new service, Intensive In-home Services, with the committee. It was discussed that Jackson Field Homes was affiliated with this committee in the past, however, when they switched their licensing to Social Services, they were no longer required to attend the LHRC meetings. Ms. Mehl's administrative assistant completed the wrong form in preparation for making the request to affiliate the new service. Ms. Mehl was instructed to contact the Office of Human Rights during regular business hours to make her request to affiliate the

new service with the committee; she was advised there is a waiting list of providers (approved through DBHDS) requesting affiliation and the requests must be taken in the order in which they are received.

X. Adjournment

- a) The LHRC meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.
- b) Meeting was immediately reconvened to conduct all business with quorum present, as Ms. Vartanian arrived at 6:43pm.

XI. Approval of the Minutes

- a) Ms. McKeever-Davis motioned to approve the minutes from the August 2009 Petersburg Regional LHRC Meeting with the one change noted above; Ms. Vartanian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XII. New Business

- a) Ms. McKeever-Davis made a motion to approve affiliation of the new group home owned/operated by Amazings Grace; Ms. Vartanian seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b) Ms. Lindblad of Specialized Youth Services of Virginia, Inc. requested approval of revisions made to the Program Handbook for the residential program, to include a name change to Blandford Manor Transitional Residential Treatment. The program has sought to shorten the length of stay for residents by adjusting expectations and teaching Dialectical Behavior Skills to the residents. These changes are in line with the state initiatives to provide children in foster care greater permanency in foster homes and decrease the time they spend in residential care. Ms. Vartanian made a motion to approve the changes/revisions; Ms. McKeever-Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c) Ms. Lindblad (SYSVA) requested renewal of the variance to the Time Out regulation 12-VAC 35-115-110 B-13. The procedure, Therapeutic Separation, has been approved through several successive variances in the past. Use of the procedure remains limited and successful, according to data available. Aggression-related incidents have declined in number/severity over the years that the variance has been in place. Ms. McKeever-Davis made a motion to approve the variance; Ms. Vartanian seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Lindblad will submit the appropriate paperwork to Ms. Carrie

Flowers immediately so the variance can be reviewed by the State Human Rights Committee in December of 2009.

- d) Ms. Lindblad (SYSVA) advised the committee that there has been some confusion with DBHDS about the company's licensing of Day Treatment services. SYSVA understood they were properly licensed to provide school-based day treatment, however proper service modifications had not been submitted as required. DBHDS is working with SYSVA to rectify licensing issues/concerns. Ms. Lindblad requested to affiliate the service at this time, however did not have paperwork for the committee to review as SYSVA is still reviewing existing materials to be certain they are adequate. Ms. Lindblad was asked to submit appropriate policies/procedures for school-based day treatment to Ms. Flowers first and further direction will be provided once she has reviewed the materials.

XIII. Adjournment

- a) Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. The meeting schedule for the coming year is as follows: February 10, 2010, May 12, 2010, August 11, 2010, and October 13, 2010.

10/30/09; kml