

DRAFT

**Richmond Tri-Cities
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2008**

Hosted by: Changing Fazes

Location: Bottoms Up Pizza, Richmond, VA

Committee Members present: Sebastian Symeoides, Tarah Comer, and Otis Lockhart

Affiliates present: Family Impact (Ruth Mattocks, Tarnisha Carter), Halo Inc. (Reno Legros), Family Transitions (Franko Britt), Lauralex LLC (Diane Efferson, Vernita Webber), Wilkerson's Consultants (Thomas Chase), Substance Abuse Consulting Services (Ron Smith), Lumzy's Residential (Laverne Lumzy, Brianne Jones, Earnie Lumzy, Earnie Lumzy Jr.), Taylors Enhanced Living (Mashelle McElrath), Youth Pathways (Hannibul Tuck), Transitional Adult Residential (Dorothy Warren, Linda Davis), Renewance Services (Frederick Rogers), Changing Fazes, Inc. (Ebony Sauls), Open Arms Family Services (Marchel Anderson, Joseph A. Kemp), Faith and Family Advocate (Tabeeba Rahman), Brookfield (Tim Reading), Acclaim Care Inc. (Abby Dickson), Good Neighbor Homes (Pascal Thebaud), Edgewood Group Family Services (Phyllis Ross), Beetwen the T's (Thomila Wilson), Alternative Counseling Group LLC (Samuel Northington Jr.), Faith Partners Care Group (Lisa Adkins, Courtney Adkins), Wise Enterprise, Inc. (Gwendolyn Andrews, Teresa Thompson), Legacy Family Services (Stanly), Taylors Enhanced Living (Willie Brown), Mercy N Grace (Deninez Moss), Life Construction (Eunice Gilchrist), Safe Haven Inc. (Grace Ilori, Adeola Adeyemi), Hope Unity and Freedom (Georgina Simmons), Community Connections (Troy Dean)

Affiliates absent: None

Others present: Michael Curseen, Advocate

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Otis Lockhart at 6:18 pm.

II. Introductions

Members and affiliates gave introductions, providing program name and name of representative(s).

III. Public Comment

Tarah Comer provided information on the Play Therapy Institute Seminars to be held in Richmond beginning in March of 2008-March 2009. These seminars will be focus on providing specialized training in play therapy. Information flyers were made available to those individuals interested.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. The minutes from the November 20, 2007 meeting were circulated. One Correction was offered to the meeting. Acclaim Care was added to the affiliates

present. Acclaim Care arrived late to the meeting due to changes in meeting location.

- B. A motion was made by Sebastian Symeoides, seconded by Tarah Comer, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes from the November meeting.

V. Old Business:

- A. The LHRC reported that the follow-up regarding Lumzy's Together Residential Services review of allegations of abuse to be held during a closed executive session.
- B. Tim Reading of Brookfield Inc. provided a presentation to introduce the program recently affiliated. The program provides residential services for girls age 16-20. The facility has two wings that separate older and younger clients. The program capacity is 16 clients. The program has been in operation since 1874 that primarily received funding and referral from Department of Social Services.

VI. New Business

- A. Request for Affiliation
 - 1. Wise Enterprise made a request for program affiliation for their therapeutic day treatment program. The program utilizes a level system and focuses on family involvement and education to address presenting challenges of the youth enrolled. Admission criteria includes clients that have a mild to moderate Axis I diagnosis. Their facility is located on Clay Street and can accommodate up to 50 children. A motion was made by Sebastian Symeoides and seconded by Tarah Comer. The request for Wise Enterprise Inc. affiliation was accepted by the committee.
- B. The reported use of a medical protective device (helmet) of Transitional Adult Residential Services was deferred to the next meeting.
- C. Michael Curseen introduced the revision to language concerning meeting attendance. A motion was made by Sebastian Symeoides and seconded by Tarah Comer to accept the revised affiliation agreement.
- D. As a result of three absences during the past year, two absences in a row (November and September 2007), the LHRC heard from Renewances Services. Renewance Services discussed concerns about changes in meeting location and not receiving updated information about location changes. Sebastian Symeoides recommended to allow Renewance to continue on with no more absences to be allowed for the next year. At this time removal from the committee will be discussed. The motion was seconded by Tarah Comer and passed.
- E. Michael Curseen made an on-going request for affiliates to assist in searching for volunteers to serve on the RTC LHRC. He restated that three of the four current members will be rotating off the committee in June, 2008. Mr. Curseen provided

affiliates with flyers with information. Two consumers and one health care professional are required on each committee. Parents of consumers are also encouraged to serve as committee members.

VII. Human Rights Activities Reporting.

- A. The following affiliates reported their activities: Acclaim Care; Alternative Counseling Group; Between the T's; Brookfield; Changing Fazes; Community Connections; Edgewood Group Family Services; Faith and Family Advocates; Faith Partners Care Group; Family Impact; Family Transitions.; Good Neighbor Homes; Halo, Inc.; Hope Unity and Freedom; LaurAlex, LLC; Life Construction; Lumzy's Residential Services; Mercy 'N' Grace Residential Services, Inc.; Open Arms Family Services; Renewance Services, LLC; Safe Haven Inc.; Substance Abuse Consulting Services, Inc.; Taylor's Enhanced Living; Transitional Adult Residential Care; Wilkerson Consulting Services; and Youth Pathways; Advanced Services for Kids; Brookfield; LaurAlex; and Alternative Counseling Group.
1. The LHRC made a request for investigation report to be received by Halo prior to the next meeting to address allegation reported.
 2. Transitional Adult Residential Care presented a letter to request temporary affiliation for an additional program during their Human Rights Activities Reporting. The committee informed this affiliate that they need to notify the Office of Human Rights by mail in order to be placed on the agenda for consideration for temporary affiliation of an additional program.
- B. A motion was made by Tarah Comer and seconded by Sebastian Symeoides to accept the Human Rights Activities Reportings. The Reportings were unanimously accepted.
- C. All affiliates were requested to utilize the Human Rights Activities Reporting Sheet to provide a summary of yearly reportings at the next meeting. The period covered will include the entire year of January 2007-December 2007.

VIII. Next Meeting Host Schedule

The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2008.

- IX. The LHRC Committee went into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sub-Section 2.2-3711, for the protection of the privacy of individuals and their records in personal matters not related to public business at 8:25 PM in order to receive a requested follow-up report from Lumzy's Residential Services concerning an abuse allegation. The RTC LHRC approved a motion to return to open session at 9:15 PM. In open session, the Each committee member certified that to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters for the protection of the privacy of individuals and their records in personal matters not related to public business were heard, discussed or considered. Following this, the committee approved a motion to review the written information provided in greater detail and

provide recommendations at the April 15, 2008 RTC LHRC meeting.

X Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm by Otis Lockhart.