

**Richmond Tri-Cities
Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2008**

Hosted by: Faith and Family Advocates
Location: Richmond, VA

Committee Members present: Tarah Comer and Otis Lockhart

Committee Members absent: Sabastian Symeonides and Lynn Robinson

Affiliates present: Acclaim Care Inc. (Jean Hill, Meeka Charleston), Alternative Counseling Group (Samuel Northington Jr.), Beetween the T's (Thomila Wilson), Changing Fazes (Ebony Sauls, Shenita Williams), Community Connections (Troy Dean), Edgewood Group Family Services (Phyllis Ross, Sheron Lynch), Faith & Family Advocates (Wayne Whittle), Faith Partners Care Group (Lisa Adkins), Family Impact (Ruth Mattocks), Family Transitions (Colethia Turner), Good Neighbor Homes (Matt Mareck, Pascal Thebaud), Halo, Inc. (Reno Legros, Michelle Evans), Hope Unity & Freedom (Georgina L. Simmons), Life Construction (Eunice Gilchrist), Lumzy's Residential Services (Laverne Lumzy, Earnie Lumzy, Brianne Jones), Mercy 'N' Grace Residential Services (Deninez Moss), Open Arms Family Services (Joseph A. Kemp, II), Renewance Services, LLC (Frederick Rogers), Safe Haven Day Support Services (Adeola Adeyemi, Jessica Rorer), Substance Abuse Consulting Services, Inc., Taylor's Enhanced Living (Mashelle McElvaln), Wilkerson's Consulting Services (Thomas Chase), Youth Pathway, LLC (Hannibal Tuck)

Temporary Affiliates present: All Family Matters (Katie Garnett, Tara George), Brookfield (Tim Reading), LaurAlex, LLC (Debra B. Clark), Metro Area Support Services (Jamie Fauleon, June Harvell), Wise Enterprises (Gwendolyn Andrews)

Affiliates absent: Transitional Adult Residential Care

Others present: Michael Curseen (Advocate), Jimmy Christmas, and Silvia Hill

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Otis Lockhart at 6:35 pm.

II. Introductions

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

III. Public Comment

Frederick Rogers of Renewance Services gave report that he received a notice stating that providers can not continue to utilize client names or initials in any form of note writing for licensure. He stated that a client number system must be devised for note writing.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. The minutes from the March 18, 2008 meeting were circulated. Two corrections were offered to the minutes. First, Beetween the T's is to be added under section VIII under Human Rights Activities Reporting. Second, a correction to the

spelling of 'June Hakwell' is to be made to 'June Harvell' under Affiliates Present of Metro Area Support Services Inc.

- B. Due to lack of quorum, no action could be taken on the approval of the minutes. This is deferred until next meeting.

V. Old Business:

- A. The LHRC followed up on the request for written investigation report to address allegation reported during the January 15, 2008 meeting. This written report was received and received by the LHRC chair, Otis Lockhart. No action or recommendations were offered to their report or presentation. Halo, Inc. followed appropriate policies and procedures of action regarding this incident. The employee was terminated by the agency.

VI. New Business

- A. Termination of LHRC Membership of Mr. Lynn G. Robinson. This action was deferred to closed session and deferred to next meeting due to lack of quorum.
- B. Recognition of LHRC Service to Mr. Otis Lockhart and Mr. Sabastian Symeonides was given by Michael Curseen.
- C. Request for affiliation of program expansion was given by Good Neighbor Homes (Matt Marek and Pascal Thebaud) for an expansion to include intensive in-home services. The program will provide intensive in-home services for clients age 4-20. LCSW will oversee program. Program will include crisis interventions, assessment, and an ecosystemic approach to assess and intervene with the client in their environment. Interventions will include collaboration with school system, IEP services, probation officers, etc. to address all system areas of impact. Action on acceptance of program affiliation was deferred until next meeting due to lack of quorum of LHRC.
- D. Request for affiliation of program expansion was given by Changing Fazes (Ebony Sauls) for an expansion to include outpatient individual, family, and group therapy. The outpatient program will offer therapy services by licensed therapists. Referral sources will include self-referrals and the program will offer services for ages 5-65 with exclusion criteria of IQ 65 or less, mental retardation as the primary diagnosis, or if the client is actively suicidal or homicidal. The program will offer services to those clients in transition from hospital or residential settings. Services will require a face to face intake process. Action on this request was deferred until next meeting due to lack of quorum of the LHRC.
- E. Request for affiliation of program expansion was given by Faith & Family Advocates (Deidre Whittle) for an expansion to include therapeutic day treatment services. The program will consist of providing day treatment services as part of a summer program and then after-school hours during the academic school year.

Admission criteria, exclusion criteria, and all program policies of Faith & Family Advocates will remain the same. Action on acceptance of this request for program expansion will be deferred until the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

- F. Presentation of Safe Haven Inc. to request affiliation for a program expansion was deferred until next meeting.

VII. Election of Officers: Chair (Effective July 1, 2008)

- A. Action was deferred due to lack of quorum.

VIII. Human Rights Activities Reporting

- A. The following affiliates reported their activities

1. Acclaim Care: One informal complaint was made in section I in evaluation and treatment. A client had swallowed a screw and was admitted to Tucker Hospital due to suicidal gestures. The client has a 1:1 and now receives counseling to address mental health needs. One allegation was also reported in section II. Findings of Acclaim Care resulted in no abuse or neglect. Under section III, program changes included hiring of 7 new staff, terminated 3, 2 resignations, 2 new residents, and discharge of 1 resident.
2. All Family Matters: No reports in section I or section II. Under section III, one client is currently being served.
3. Alternative Counseling Group: No reports given in section I, II, or III.
4. Between the T's: No report given in section I. Under section II, 2 allegations of abuse were reported. First allegation involved a staff member missing money and responded by getting into the personal space of a client. This resulted in a fight between staff and client. The second report included a staff member leaving a new staff not yet hired or trained in the home with no other staff.
5. Brookfield: One informal complaint involving dignity was resolved by the agency. No reports were identified under section II. Under section III, one staff resigned and one new hire.
6. Changing Fazes: No reports given under section I or II. Under section III, two new family counselors were hired.
7. Community Connections, LLC: No reports under section I were identified. Under section II, one report was made of staff giving consumer illegal substances. With investigation, no findings of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Under section III, discharge of one client and admitted four new clients.
8. Edgewood Group Family Services: In section I, one report of use of seclusion, restraint, or time-out was given and resolved under the informal process. Under section II, one allegation was reported with no findings of abuse, neglect or exploitation occurring. Under section III, 15 clients discharged, 15 new clients under IIIH services program. 4 new staff, 13 new clients, and 1 termination of MHSS. 6 new clients in OP program.
9. Faith & Family Advocates: No reports given in sections I, II, or III.

10. Faith Partners Care Group: No reports given in section I or II. Under section III, 9 terminations, 10 staff hired and license obtained for addition on 5/9/08.
11. Family Impact: No reports given in section I or II. Under section III, Hampton office was approved by Licensure. 3 new hires.
12. Family Transitions: No reports given in section I, II, or III.
13. Good Neighbor Homes: One formal resolution was reported for confidentiality under section I. A parent was allowed to look at the clothing of another client. One report was identified under section II. This allegation of incident was stated to occur in October 2007. The employee and the employee's supervisor were terminated in November. Investigation is considered to have insufficient evidence due to lack of cooperation of the previous employee and inability to contact other employee.
14. Halo Inc.: No reports given under section I or II. Under section III: 6 staff hired, 4 terminated, one resigned, one new admission, and one change in residence.
15. Hope, Unity, & Freedom: No reports given under section I or II. Under section III, 8 new admissions, 3 staff terminations, and 3 staff hired.
16. LaurAlex, LLLC: No reports under section I or II. Under section III: one new admission.
17. Life Construction: No reports under section I, II, or III.
18. Lumzy's Residential: One report made under section I of evaluation and treatment. Client was making complaint of leg and taken to three doctors, each revealing that there is nothing wrong. With a psych consult, client was admitted to Tucker. Under section II, one report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation was substantiated. Client received injury to head as employee failed to release leg harness of wheelchair transportation of client causing client to fall. The accident was not reported by employee and not reported by agency. OHR recommended that agency receive citation from licensing following investigation. Under section III, 3 new employees and 4 terminations, and under Bridging Gaps Supportive Services 11 new clients and 4 new staff.
19. Mercy-N-Grace Residential Services: No reports given in section I, II, or III.
20. Metro Area Support Services: No reports given in section I, II, or III.
21. Open Arms Family Services: No reports given in section I, II, or III.
22. Renewance Services, LLC: No reports made in section I or II. Under section III, one new client.
23. Safe Haven Inc.: No reports made in section I. Under section II, two allegations reported involving peer to peer incident. Under the first report, a client hit another peer when agitated about his mother not visiting him, making a broken promise. The second incident involved a client hitting a staff and then biting a peer as a result of a staff 'allowing' the client to pour bottles of milk on the floor.
24. Substance Abuse Consulting Services, Inc.: No reports under section I, II, or III.
25. Taylor's Enhanced Living Inc.: No reports under section I or II. Under section III, 1 termination of staff, 2 resignation, and 3 new hires.
26. Transitional Adult Residential Care was absent and unable to give reporting.

- 27. Wilkerson's Consulting Services: No reports under section I or II. Under section III, one new staff hired.
- 28. Wise Enterprise: No reports under section I, II, or III.
- 29. Youth Pathways, LLC: No reports under section I, II, or III.

B. No action could be made on the Human Rights Activities Reporting due to lack of LHRC quorum.

IX. Office of Human Rights Comments - Michael Curseen, Human Rights Advocate

- A. Mr. Curseen gave report that upcoming meetings will include human rights training overviews
- B. Mr. Curseen gave a brief overview of the Complaint Resolution Process. The individual is given the option of resolving their complaint informally or formally. These processes are to be explained to the individual making the complaint. If the client offers no decision, the complaint is always handled as an informal complaint.
- C. Overview was given of the abuse reporting progress. Definitions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation were given. Mr. Curseen reminded affiliates that all abuse, neglect, and exploitation allegations have to be reported to the Office of Human Rights.
- D. Mr. Curseen gave a formal request for further LHRC Member Candidates not to only serve on this committee, but there is a need for volunteers for other LHRCs.
- E. Updated, current blue books of the Rules and Regulations were provided to affiliates.

X. The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2008.

A. Otis Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

X. The LHRC Committee went into closed session at 8:15 p.m. to address LHRC Application for membership.

- A. Jimmy Christmas and Silvia Hill participated in interview for LHRC membership.
- B. Ms. Veronica Thweat and Ms. Dona Edmondson were absent.