

SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER  
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
February 15, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Moore  
Karen Richardson  
Diane Watkins  
Stefanie Ward  
Mark Douglass

GUESTS PRESENT: Luan Thomas  
Stewart Prost  
Robert Shrewsberry, PhD

The meeting was called to order. Mr. Moore began the meeting by asking for clarification on the role of the committee in the function of the program review. Mr. Prost answered by reading from the Blue Book saying that the committee is to review restraint and time out programs to ensure that proper consent has been given; that the facility has looked at non-restrictive methods of management; and ensures that the plan does not conflict with rights of the individuals served. It was then recommended that the copies of programs reviewed contain the Program Consent and Medication Consent pages.

Dr. Shrewsberry spoke to the committee. He began by saying that mid-March is the expected date for the first 25 people to move into the new homes. It is expected that everyone will be moved in by the end of May. We will continue to have old cottages open because the communities will not have their homes ready for occupancy until September or October. The empty cottages will be demolished.

He went on to say that the Governor and Commissioner want to sell much of the land that SEVTC sits on. A space-study has been conducted to assess who uses the other buildings on campus and what type of replacement buildings will be needed for the 130-150 staff who currently occupies those buildings. He reminded the committee that any money attained by selling land would have to stay in the trust fund for the department. When asked about contracting services he said the pharmacy might be the only department that could be contracted out.

He was asked about the Regional Community Support Center (RCSC). He said that dental, behavioral consultation, OT, PT, Speech, and Rehabilitation Engineering were being looked out for the community. The two new Chesapeake homes may have Clinical services available since they are so close in proximity to SEVTC.

He went on to talk about the landmark decision to close four state facilities over the next ten years. That would mean 805 folks would have to be discharged into an already filled community program. When asked why the other facilities didn't just stop new admissions and let those who want to move do so, Dr. Shrewsberry explained that some folks living in facilities are just too hard to place in waiver homes. He went on to say that the Olmstead Act does not require the facilities to close, but the Commissioner thought it was time to do so. The Act says the person should move to the community if they choose to and the state doesn't have to change how they do business to make that change occur. He admitted that with no money available for the community programs to build alternative supports it seems unlikely that the plan will succeed. The committee thanked him for his visit.

Mr. Prost reviewed his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

SEVTC Instruction number 2243, Behavior Support Plans and SEVTC Instruction Number 2295 Video Cameras and Video Recording in Homes had been emailed to committee members for review. They will be discussed at the March meeting.

The committee went into executive session pursuant to the Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A (4) for the purpose of reviewing limited or restrictive behavioral programs.

Ms. Thomas told the committee about a program written for someone who has lived at SEVTC for more than 25 years. Twenty years ago he engaged in severe SIB. It was the treatment of a previously unknown allergies, the introduction of Prolixin, and the use of tubes on his arm to prevent him from slapping himself that eliminated the behavior. For 20 years he has been happy, productive and not engaging in SIB. Last November the allergist suggested that they try to wean him from a 4-week injection schedule to a 6-week schedule. Shortly after that he began to display self-injurious behaviors again. He was checked for many possible medical problems but nothing was apparent. During an SCC meeting a committee member suggested that we try the elbow tubes that he was so fond of 20 years ago. He was then offered a flexible sleeve that would fit over each elbow and he stopped the injurious behavior and smiled and laughed again. A plan was developed for these sleeves allowing him to wear them when he wants, except when bathing, and to take them off when he wants. He wears them often and can eat and drink and function normally while wearing them. If they seem to be in his way he will adjust it to his liking and then put it back in place when he is ready. It is not a restraint so the plan does not require LHRC approval, but the ID team wanted them to know of the program at the onset. Ms. Watkins, who knows the individual, expressed her pride in the staff of SEVTC who so quickly devised a plan that makes the person happy, comfortable and safe from even himself. The team will continue to rule out medical involvement and will see the allergist to restore previous schedule.

A motion was made to accept the information given during closed Executive Session and go into open session. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Upon reconvening in open session, each member certified that, to the best of each their knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters indentified in the motion to convene the executive session were discussed in the executive session.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting. It was seconded and all voted in favor. A motion was made to approve the programs reviewed at the current meeting. It was seconded and all voted in favor.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, starting at 8:00 am. If you are unable to attend the meeting please contact Luan Thomas at 424-8305 or by email at [Luan.Thomas@sevtc.dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:Luan.Thomas@sevtc.dbhds.virginia.gov). There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Sam Moore, Chairperson

