

**LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**  
**Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee**  
**Meeting of July 24, 2009**

**\*\*\*FINAL\*\*\***

PRESENT

Kathleen Dring, Psy.D., LHRC Acting Chair  
Tracy Ferguson, LHRC  
Elaine Martin, LHRC  
Stewart Prost, Human Rights Advocate DMHMRSAS  
Sue Wilson, Pendleton Child Services Center  
Jeffrey Burns, Tidewater Psychotherapy Services  
Roseann Smith, Finney Psychotherapy Associates  
Kissey Curry, Atlantic Psychiatric Services  
Damon Sutton, Paramount Youth Services  
Nina Joyner, New Life Programs and Family Systems II  
Angelo Morlino, Vito, Inc.  
James Lassiter, Family Net  
Monica C. Manley, The Barry Robinson Center  
Sharon Liddle, Applicant  
Jean Bohnhoff, Applicant

ABSENT

Acting Chairperson Kathleen Dring called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**2009 Meeting Dates**

Since the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) will be meeting on October 23, 2009, the committee changed the final meeting date to October 30, 2009.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the April 24, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Advocate's Report**

Stewart Prost distributed a handout and reported the name of the department has officially changed as of July 1, 2009 from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Mr. Prost recommended that everyone continue to use the old email addresses, which will continue to be functional for approximately one year.

Mr. Prost distributed and discussed a memo from the SHRC reminding providers of their responsibility to ensure that their Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) has a functional number of members. Mr. Prost reported there are currently 77 LHRCs in Virginia. It is anticipated that two new committees may be created.

Mr. Prost stated our LHRC is functional with three members and two applicants will be interviewed today. He informed the committee that a few new programs/providers will be added to our LHRC in the near future.

Mr. Prost reported that the process for adding new programs has changed effective July 1, 2009. When a provider is establishing a new program that is not covered by current human

rights policies and procedures, the provider must complete a "Human Rights Compliance Verification" form (which was distributed during the meeting) and send it to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director. This verification form lists what policies and procedures you must have and your signature verifies that you are in compliance. Once the verification form is received, a site visit will be conducted within 180 days, which will include a review of policies and procedures, records and interviews with employees to ensure that practices are in compliance. Finally, Mr. Prost reminded providers that they must inform the Office of Human Rights when they receive the new license and when the first client is admitted.

Mr. Prost briefly reviewed the unchanged process of adding programs and locations under existing policies and procedures. If adding a program or new location, the provider sends a letter of intent with a contact name listed.

Mr. Prost reported training for new committee members is scheduled for September 23, 2009 at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, VA from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. He indicated committee member would be notified in writing.

Since our committee will be gaining two new members, Mr. Prost informed the Committee that he would defer providing training on the Freedom of Information Act until the next meeting (October 30, 2009).

### **Program Reports**

1. Pendleton Child Services Center – Sue Wilson reported they are currently serving 18 residents in the residential program and 4 students in their day-treatment program. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
2. Tidewater Psychotherapy – Jeff Burns reported they are currently serving 76 clients in 9 intensive outpatient and substance abuse groups. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
3. Finney Psychiatric Associates – Roseann Smith reported they are currently serving 11 adult clients in their intensive outpatient chemical dependency program and 4 adults in their relapse prevention program. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
4. Atlantic Psychiatric Services – Kiskey Curry reported their intensive outpatient program is currently under reconstruction.
5. Paramount Youth Services – Damon Sutton reported they are currently serving 18 clients in 4 group homes. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
6. New Life – Nina Joyner reported they have moved all of their intensive in-home clients under Family Systems II. Mary's House has 4 residents. William Stallings Project has no residents. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.
7. Family Systems II – Nina Joyner reported there are 148 clients receiving intensive in-home services. There are 27 clients receiving mental health support and 46 clients in the therapeutic day treatment program. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.

Ms. Joyner requested temporary affiliation for two new Day Treatment sites (Westhaven Elementary School in Portsmouth, VA and Holland Elementary School in VA Beach, VA) for the 2009-2010 school year. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the two schools be moved to temporary affiliation.

8. Vito Inc. – Angelo Morlino reported they are currently serving 50 in-home clients and 40-day support clients. There was one incident that he requested to discuss during closed session. Since they have not yet received a license, he requested to continue temporary affiliation for a Day Support Program in VA Beach, VA. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Day Treatment program continues its temporary affiliation.
9. Family Net – James Lassiter reported they currently have 7 clients receiving in-home services. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.
10. The Barry Robinson Center – HomeBase Services – Monica Manley reported 90 clients are receiving in-home services. HomeBase Services also provides additional group services of anger management, art therapy and substance abuse. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.
11. The Barry Robinson Center – The LHRC reviewed The Barry Robinson Center’s statistical reports regarding structured living, reports to Licensing/Human Rights and special treatment procedure utilization.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made and passed that the LHRC enter into an Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-371 (A) for the purpose of interviewing applicants Sharon Liddle and Jean Bohnhoff, reviewing the incident at Vito Inc. and The Barry Robinson Center’s occurrence report.

### **Exit Executive Session**

Upon reconvening into public session, the LHRC unanimously certified to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public matters, lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified to the motion to reconvene this session, the Executive Session, were discussed in the Executive Session.

After reconvening into public session, the Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee indicated they made no recommendations regarding the incident at Vito Inc. or any of the occurrences at The Barry Robinson Center.

They recommended that the State Human Rights Committee approve Ms. Liddle and Ms. Bohnhoff to become Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.