

**TIDEWATER REGIONAL  
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
June 24, 2008  
MINUTES**

PRESENT

Christopher Boyd, LHRC Member  
Renee Edwards, LHRC Member  
Felicia Sawyer, LHRC Member  
James Overton, LHRC Member  
Reginald T. Daye, Regional Advocate, DMHMRSAS  
Frank Gallagher, CEO, The Pines Treatment Center  
Mark Roth, Kempsville Administrator, The Pines Treatment Center  
Carolyn Willandt, Crawford Administrator, The Pines Treatment Center  
Dana Gillentine, Interim Risk Manager, The Pines Treatment Center  
Tammy McMinn, Discharge Coordinator, The Pines Treatment Center  
Fran Neaves, Director of PI/Risk Management, Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center  
Tina Parcell, Virginia Director of Mental Health Services, First Home Care  
Paula Harr, Director of QMS, First Home Care  
Elaine Tyson, Program Supervisor, First Home Care  
Kate Horn, Day Treatment Counselor, Oyster Point Academy  
RJ Dominguez, Program Coordinator, Crawford Day School  
Amanda Steeves, LHRC Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Mary Butler, LHRC Member  
Ruth Mawyer, Director of Nursing, Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center  
Kathleen Schultz, Assistant Director of Nursing, Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center Rhonda Burrell,  
Human Rights Advocate, The Pines Treatment Center  
Henry Hopkins, Supervisor, Home Based Supervisor, First Home Care

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Local Human Rights Committee meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Renee Edwards.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of March 25, 2008 were reviewed. Mr. James Overton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Christopher Boyd seconded the motion and all members present voted to accept.

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. FHC permanent affiliation of mental health support services

Discussion: Tina Parcell reported that First Home Care received its license in April 2008. She requested that the committee change the temporary affiliation granted at the last meeting to permanent affiliation with the Tidewater Local Human Rights Committee. Mr. Boyd asked if there were any additional steps to the process. Mr. Daye stated that all they were waiting for was the license and now, if approved; the reports and allegations would come before this committee.

Action: Mr. Overton moved to grant permanent affiliation to First Home Care's mental health support services. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion and all members present voted to accept.

#### B. FHC permanent affiliation of the second group home

Discussion: Tina Parcell stated that FHC received the letter the previous Friday and would like to get permanent affiliation for the second group home.

Action: Mr. Boyd moved to grant permanent affiliation to First Home Care's second group home. Mr. Overton seconded the motion and all members present voted to move to permanent affiliation with the Tidewater LHRC.

#### C. FHC addition of Portsmouth schools under day treatment affiliation

Discussion: Tina Parcell reported that Portsmouth City Schools have asked that the day treatment program be expanded from Brighton Elementary to two additional schools. The next two schools being added are Craddock Middle School and I.C. Norcom High School. First Home Care needs temporary affiliation to move forward with the state licensing process.

Action: Mr. Boyd moved to grant temporary affiliation to First Home Care's expansion of school based treatment to two additional schools. Mr. Overton seconded the motion and all members present voted to accept.

#### D. FHC temporary affiliation of school based treatment in TECH center on the Eastern Shore

Discussion: Tina Parcell stated that the TECH center on the Eastern Shore will be the fifth school added under that day treatment program. First Home Care did not have the certificate of occupancy at the last meeting, and Ms. Parcell is now requesting temporary affiliation to continue with VA state licensing.

Action: Mr. Boyd moved to grant temporary affiliation to school based treatment at the TECH center on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Overton seconded the motion and all members present voted to accept.

#### IV. STANDING REPORTS

##### A. General Information

Mr. Daye introduced the newest committee member, Ms. Felicia Sawyer. She has been approved by the state committee for a three year term.

VBPC: Fran Neaves announced to the committee that she has taken the position of Director of Performance Improvement and Risk Management at Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center. She reported that there are many initiatives happening at VBPC with suicide prevention topping the list. There has been a change in the restrooms so that there are no exposed pipes underneath the sinks. This had been identified during an environmental inspection as a suicide risk. Also, in accordance with a corporate request, residents will be given plastic ties to use as belts and shoestrings. This will be an across the board initiative with all patients receiving the plastic ties upon admission. Mr. Daye asked about the current policy, and if anyone inquired with the patients to see how they feel about the change. This change would be less restrictive than the current process of removing patient's belts and shoelaces for safety. Mr. Daye agreed that the plastic ties were a less restrictive and more dignified option. A copy of the protocol will be sent to Mr. Daye and the committee members before this initiative is implemented.

Other initiatives at Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center include a group evaluation process on the CD program to revise as needed. This will ensure that the best education is being provided to patients. The 4 inch mattresses are being replaced with 6 inch ones for patient comfort. Also, there are many initiatives being undertaken to improve staff communication.

Pines Treatment Center: Frank Gallagher stated that the seclusion and restraint numbers continue to come down on all three campuses. There was an ad hoc committee set up to try and deal with some of the more impulsive residents. There should be an additional improvement in the numbers next quarter. The goal at the Pines is to do away with mechanical restraints, and focus on more verbal intervention. Frank stated they are putting together a committee to respond to this national trend, and this change will involve a massive training initiative. The policy is being worked on and should come before the LHRC soon.

Mark Roth reported that at Kempsville the program model implementation is complete. There are many new staff who reviewed schedules and groups for efficiency. Lack of structured activities caused some of the residents to act out from anxiety. There are lots of new residential counselors on board and the campus is slowly working towards a consistency in both schedules and staff. There are lots of training programs coming up in the future. Program handbooks are being revised and should be sent to the committee in time for the next meeting. Change of shift reports are more consistent and information is being shared much better between staff. Due to the increase in incidents during transition time, a staff member has

been placed between every 5 residents during line up times. This has helped to keep impulsive behavior in check with some of the younger residents. Kempsville has a new psychiatrist who will be working with the treatment team to provide more medical involvement. The population at Kempsville has shifted from out of state kids to a majority of Tricare residents. The benefit to this shift is the involvement of more families in treatment.

Mr. Daye asked if there are any changes being made to the behavioral management policies, and if so were they going to be organization wide changes. Frank responded that so far all that's been done is treatment planning adherence, more supervision and more structured activities which have helped to decrease the number of incidents. Mr. Daye reminded the committee that all behavioral management changes need to be approved by them before implementation. It was suggested that the Pines review the handbook changes against the regulations before sending it to Mr. Daye and the LHRC Committee.

Mr. Overton inquired about the rate of incidents and the ratio of staff to residents. Frank Gallagher replied that the ratios are high on all campuses. There was some discussion about the Pines involvement with the Portsmouth City Police Department's decision to handle mental health patients different from the general population. Frank stated that they had met with the City Manager and the Director of Mental Health Services some time ago to let them know about the initiative going on at the Pines.

B. Seclusion and Restraint Reports

VBPC: There were 10 physical holds for the first quarter, with 2 holds reported in the month of April. There were 30 restraints, 5 chemical restraints and 36 seclusions between the months of January and March.

The Pines: There were 271 physical holds for all three campuses in the first quarter. There were 79 mechanical holds and 92 seclusions.

Crawford Day School: 24 physical holds in January, 12 in February and 22 in March. There was one student who had to be held several times and he has been discharged from the program. Reports for the new schools added will be brought to the next meeting.

Oyster Point Academy: There were 11 episodes in January, 6 in February and 5 in March. The staff have done a good job of decreasing episodes and using lots of verbal intervention.

C. Reports on Structured Living Protocol

VBPC: There was one episode of SLP in February and one episode March, both on the Adolescent unit.

The Pines: None to report for this quarter. The Pines will submit an update to the State Human Rights Committee before July 2008.

D. Overview of Allegation Reports

First Home Care: Ms. Parcell and Mr. Hopkins stated there were no allegations to report from First Home Care.

Northampton County Public Schools: There was one reported allegation made to human rights during the first quarter of 2008.

Oyster Point Academy: It was reported there was 22 advocate reports made during the 1st quarter.

Crawford Day School: Ms. Parcell reported 23 incidents at Crawford Day School that occurred between January and March.

VBPC: Ms. Mawyer reported a total of 18 formal complaints and 15 informal complaints during this reporting period.

The Pines: It was stated there were a total of 120 allegations at Kempsville, 34 allegations at Crawford, and 59 incidents at Brighton that were reported to the Office of Human Rights during this reporting period.

V. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Mr. Boyd made a motion that the committee go into Executive Session, pursuant to Virginia Code 2-2-3711A(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely to review patient information from First Home Care, Eastern Shore Public Schools, Oyster Point Academy, Crawford Day School, and Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center, pursuant to the regulations.

Action: Second was made by Mr. Overton. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Reconvened in Open Session: Upon reconvening in Open Session, Mr. Overton, Mr. Boyd, Ms. Sawyer and Ms. Edwards of the Tidewater Regional LHRC unanimously certified to the best of their knowledge that only public business matters exempt from statutory open meeting requirements and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in accordance to Virginia Code 2-2-3711A(4).

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee members voted on officer position for the next term. Mr. Overton nominated Mr. Boyd as chairperson. Ms. Edwards seconded the nomination and all members present accepted the vote. Mr. Boyd nominated Mr. Overton as vice-chairperson for the next term. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion and all members voted to accept. Ms. Felicia was nominated by Mr. Boyd as secretary for the next term, Mr. Overton seconded and all members present voted to accept.

## VII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Mr. Boyd made a motion that the committee go into Executive Session, pursuant to Virginia Code 2-2-3711A(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely to review patient information from the Pines Treatment Center pursuant to the regulations.

Action: Second was made by Mr. Overton. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Reconvened in Open Session: Upon reconvening in Open Session, Mr. Overton, Mr. Boyd and Ms. Sawyer of the Tidewater Regional LHRC unanimously certified to the best of their knowledge that only public business matters exempt from statutory open meeting requirements and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Executive Session were discussed in accordance to Virginia Code 2-2-3711A(4).

## VIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next regular LHRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Boyd made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Sawyer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Amanda Steeves  
Recording Secretary

Renee Edwards  
LHRC Member