

**State Human Rights Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Region IV  
Friday, January 25, 2008  
Henrico CSB  
10299 Woodman Road  
Richmond, Virginia 23060**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING**

**8:30 a.m.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirby Wright, Chair  
Christina Delzingaro, Vice-Chair  
Joseph Lynch  
Donald Lyons  
Jannie Robinson  
Davey Zellmer

**NOT PRESENT**

Angela Brosnan  
Delores Archer  
Carmen Thompson

**HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF PRESENT**

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director  
Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary  
Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region I  
Deb Lochart, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region II  
James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region IV  
Reginald T. Daye, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region V  
Sherry C. Miles, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region VI  
Beverly W. Garnes, Patient Advocate, Southside Virginia Training Center  
M. Ansley Perkins, Human Rights Advocate, Central State Hospital

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Brenda Coleman, Disability Rights Advocate, Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

Yvonne Russell, Quality Assurance Manager, Henrico Area Mental Health and Retardation Services

Mr. Kirby Wright, Chair, opened the administrative session of the State Human Rights Committee meeting at 8:40 a.m. Mr. Wright welcomed Mr. Joe Lynch back to the committee after a leave of absence due to his health.

## **Issues/Topics**

The SHRC acknowledged a letter sent to Dr. Holland, Director of Southside Virginia Training Center, by Kirby Wright on behalf of the committee. Mr. Wright thanked Ms. Beverly Garnes, Human Rights Advocate, and the SVTC LHRC for their work in advocating for dental care for the residents of SVTC. Mr. Wright extended his thanks to Dr. Holland for his willingness and assistance with looking into this issue and in following through.

Ms. Davey Zellmer reported on activities relative to the *Human Writes* newsletter. Ms. Zellmer reminded the committee of the need to appoint a member to take over the newsletter after she rotates off the SHRC in June. Ms. Zellmer emphasized the need to brief expectant honorees before interviewing them.

James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region IV, introduced Ms. M. Ansley Perkins, new advocate for Region IV and Central State Hospital.

## **SHRC Workplan**

A Nominating Committee needs to be appointed to seek replacements for Davey Zellmer and Carmen Anne Thomson.

A Newsletter Editor should be appointed to take over when Davey Zellmer rotates off.

Ms. Margaret Walsh commented on the goal of administrative effectiveness and asked if the committee wanted to have the regional advocates come back to present on regional activities again. The SHRC agreed that it would be very helpful to have the regional advocates report on 2007 activities. Ms. Walsh will schedule regional reports for upcoming SHRC meetings.

Ms. Walsh provided annual Freedom of Information Act training in the absence of Ms. Karen Walters, Special DMHMRS/DAS Counsel.

Ms. Walsh reported that Ms. Deb Lochart, Regional Advocate for Region II, is participating in the pilot for Commonwealth Calendar meeting posting requirements for Local Human Rights Committees.

Ms. Walsh reminded the advocates present that 2008 meeting schedules need to be posted on the department web site.

MS. Walsh will seek a ruling from the Attorney General's Office regarding CMS reviews by Local Human Rights Committees.

Mr. Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region I, reported on the Chief Justices Task Force on Empowerment and Self-Determination.

Margaret Walsh, provided an update on the activities of the General Assembly relative to the Department. This year there are 140 bills dealing with mental health reform.

**10:00 a.m. Break**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**10:15 a.m.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirby Wright, Chair  
Christina Delzingaro, Vice-Chair  
Joseph Lynch  
Donald Lyons  
Jannie Robinson  
Davey Zellmer

**NOT PRESENT**

Angela Brosnan  
Delores Archer  
Carmen Thompson

**HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF PRESENT**

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director  
Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary  
Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region I  
Deb Lochart, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region II  
James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region IV  
Reginald T. Daye, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region V  
Sherry C. Miles, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region VI  
Beverly W. Garnes, Patient Advocate, Southside Virginia Training Center  
M. Ansley Perkins, Human Rights Advocate, Central State Hospital

## **OTHER STAFF PRESENT**

Lee Price, Director, Office of Mental Retardation Services, DMHMRSAS

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Brenda Coleman, Disability Rights Advocate, Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

Yvonne Russell, Quality Assurance Manager, Henrico Area Mental Health and Retardation Services

## **Welcome / Call to Order**

The January 25, 2008, State Human Rights Committee was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Mr. Kirby Wright, Chairperson. Mr. James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region IV, introduced Ms. Yvonne Russell, Quality Assurance Manager, Henrico Area Mental Health and Retardation Services. Ms. Russell welcomed everyone to the facility. Ms. Margaret Walsh, Human Rights Director, thanked Ms. Russell and the CSB for all their support through the years. Mr. Wright asked committee members and human rights staff to introduce themselves

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the December 7, 2007 State Human Rights Committee meeting were unanimously approved as written with two abstentions.

Ms. Christina Delzingaro, Mr. Joseph Lynch and Dr. Angela Brosnan were appointed to the Officer Nominating Committee to recommend officers for the 2008 term. Christina Delzingaro will Chair the committee.

Ms. Delores Archer, Ms. Carmen Anne Thompson, and Ms. Davey Zellmer were appointed to the Membership Selection Committee. Delores Archer will serve as Chair.

Maragret Walsh reported that there is broad support for changing the department's name to remove Mental Retardation and use the term intellectual disabilities. It is possible that the whole department name will change.

## **VCBR**

The SHRC reviewed Advocate Monthly Reports for November and December, 2007. Kirby Wright commented that it is good to have a staff person at VCBR to process complaints.

Kirby Wright announced the public comment period and invited individuals to come forward to address the committee. There being no individuals from the public who wished to speak the committee continued with regular business.

The presentation from Ms. Gail Rheinheimer, Community Resource Manager,

Mental Retardation/Community Resources, was removed from the agenda.

### **LHRC Membership**

**A motion was made and passed to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711 for the purpose of considering appointments to and removals from Local Human Rights Committees.**

Upon reconvening in open session, the State Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.

**The motion was made and unanimously passed to appoint the following applicants to the specified local human rights committees.**

#### Capital Area LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Erica M. Richardson  
Ms. Cynthia Kight  
Ms. Patrice Johnson  
Ms. Alease Johnson  
Mr. Dennis Winston

#### Henrico LHRC

Appoint:

Mr. Edward M. McIntosh

#### Southside Virginia Training Center LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Alice Anderson

#### Hanover County LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Taneika Goldman

#### Peninsula Regional LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Susan Lee Viehweg

#### Virginia Beach Area LHRC

Appoint:

Shaunna Robey

#### Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Verna Z. Henderson

Mr. Kirby Wright asked Advocates present to report on recent activities. Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region I, Deb Lochart, Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region II, James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region IV, Reginald T. Daye, Regional Human Rights Advocate for

Region V, Sherry C. Miles, Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region VI, and Beverly W. Garnes, Patient Advocate for Southside Virginia Training Center, talked about the number of LHRCs and the burden of affiliations as well as other activities of the human rights offices and Local Human Rights Committees. Ms. Beverly Garnes reminded the SHRC that Hiram W. Davis Medical Center will come under the management of Southside Virginia Training Center on July 1, 2008.

Margaret Walsh informed the SHRC that the department is developing an automated web-based data system for reporting human rights complaints and allegations of abuse and neglect. Eventually all agency-wide reporting will go to the automated system. In the automated model individual programs will enter their own data.

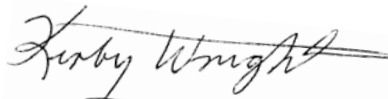
**Presenter: Lee Price, Director, Office of Mental Retardation Services**

Lee Price, Director, Office of Mental Retardation Services, presented on recent department surveys of consumer and family members. Mr. Price highlighted issues of guardianship and updated the SHRC on activities to promote provider choice.

Mr. Kirby Wright thanked Mr. Price for coming to the meeting to speak with the committee about these very important topics.

**Having no further business to discuss, the motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirby Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kirby Wright, Chair  
State Human Rights Committee