

**State Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital
Auditorium
5001 Patrick Henry Highway
Burkeville, Virginia, 23922
Friday, April 21, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING
8:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Joyce Bozeman, Chairperson
Michael Marsh, Vice-Chairperson
Angela Brosnan
Carmen Thompson
Bobby Tuck
Kirby Wright
Davey Zellmer

HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF PRESENT

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director
Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary
Nancy C. Neese, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region III
James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region IV
Sherry C. Miles, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region VI
Anne Stiles, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and Virginia
Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation
Deb Lochart, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Northern Virginia Training Center

OTHER STAFF PRESENT

Karen Walters, DMHMRSAS Special Counsel

Dr. Joyce Bozeman, Chairperson, opened the administrative session of the April 21, 2006, State Human Rights Committee.

The committee discussed the location of the next meeting. It was decided that the SHRC would hold the June 9, 2006, meeting in the Roanoke Area. Nan Neese, Regional Human Rights Advocate for Region II, will identify a specific location.

Delores Archer, Davey Zellmer and Carmen Thompson were appointed to a sub-committee for the nomination of officers for the upcoming term of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The sub-committee will present their nominations during the June 9, 2006, SHRC meeting in the Roanoke area.

The SHRC reviewed the SHRC Goals Worksheet and discussed the status of open items. The committee decided to include a list of goals and their disposition in the annual report. The report will follow the same basic format as used in the past.

Dr. Joyce Bozeman will chair the Award Sub-Committee. Bobby Tuck and Kirby Wright will serve on the sub-committee with Dr. Bozeman.

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, reported that the office of human rights is recruiting for applicants for the regional advocate's position for the Northern Virginia area. The human rights office plans to conduct interviews for the position within the next three weeks.

Deb Lochart, Facility Human Rights Advocate, reported that local human rights committees in the northern Virginia area met and discussed various issues important to running meetings, recruiting members, and exchanging ideas for the improvement of services. People who attended were enthusiastic about what they had learned.

Deb Lochart reported that the northern Virginia region has ideas for articles to include in the next issue of *Human Writes*. Davey Zellmer would like to include something about the presentation Russell Payne gave for the SHRC on Ready for Discharge. The communications sub-committee plans to include a draft of the next *Human Writes* issue in the packet for the June SHRC meeting. Margaret Walsh will provide an article on the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements for electronic meetings. She will also include Information on meeting scheduling and the posting of minutes on the web. Jim Bowser, Regional Advocate for Region IV, will submit the next Meet the Advocate article. Ms. Walsh suggested the communications sub-committee may wish to ask Dr. Evans, Director of the Office of Health and Quality Care, if he would like to submit an article on the issues of rights, health, and ethics of smoking in state facilities. The sub-committee may also wish to ask Jim Stewart, Inspector General, if he would like to contribute to an issue of *Human Writes*. Issue 3 will be posted on July 1, 2006.

Bobby Tuck, Margie Tuck, and Joyce Bozeman attended the last State Board meeting and Volunteer Luncheon.

Margaret Walsh reported that the SHRC may hear two appeals in the near future. A program in Region V has not been adhering to the SHRC's decision resulting from an earlier appeal. There is also potentially an appeal coming to the SHRC from Fairfax-

Falls Church LHRC. Ms. Walsh suggested that the SHRC may wish to establish a sub-committee to hear the northern Virginia appeal.

Some members of the Fairfax-Falls Church LHRC have resigned or threatened to resign following a hearing at the local level. These members were dissatisfied with the outcome of the LHRC hearing.

Jim Bowser, Regional Advocate for Region IV, reported that an LHRC in his region terminated the affiliation of one of their providers pending the fulfillment of certain requirements. This resulted in a 30-day lapse in LHRC services during which time clients of that program did not have access to due process.

10:00 a.m. Break

REGULAR MEETING
10:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Joyce Bozeman, Chairperson
Michael Marsh, Vice-Chairperson
Angela Brosnan
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Welcome / Call to Order

The April 21, 2006, meeting of the State Human Rights Committee was called to order by Dr. Joyce E. Bozeman, Ph.D., Chairperson.

Anne Stiles, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH) and Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, welcomed the SHRC to PGH on behalf of the Facility Director.

Recognition of State MHMRSAS Board member Victoria Huber Cochran

Not present.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2006, State Human Rights Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

Public Comment Period 10:30 TO 10:45

Dr. Joyce Bozeman 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 proceeded with regular business.

Appeal

The SHRC received information regarding a Level 3 Appeal Response from Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation.

Tour

Ms. Nellie Coleman, Head of Rehabilitative Services, provided a tour of the living units and program areas of Piedmont Geriatric Hospital.

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.

Arlington LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Margaret Hansen

Northern Virginia Training Center LHRC

Appoint:
Mr. Frank Doyle
Mount Rogers LHRC
Appoint:
Mrs. Ann Harrison
New River Valley LHRC
Appoint:
Mrs. Angela Sutphin
Eastern Virginia LHRC
Reappoint:
Mr. Jeffrey G. Kail
Genesis LHRC
Reappoint:
Ms. Lisa Thatche
Health Planning Region V LHRC
Reappoint:
Ms. D'Linda P. Wilson Swanston
Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck LHRC
Reappoint:
Ms. Judith Link
Peninsula Regional LHRC
Reappoint:
Mr. Pasquale G. "Pat" Cannavino
Southeast Alliance LHRC
Reappoint:
Mr. Nathaniel L. Parker
Suffolk Regional LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Denise N. Tynes
Tidewater Regional LHRC
Appoint:
Mr. James A. Overton, Jr.
Reappoint:
Ms. Renee Edwards
Southside Community Services LHRC
Reappoint:
Mrs. Linda Parham
Central Virginia Services LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Pamela Felici
Reappoint:
Mrs. Sarah Coppola
Ms. Katherine Oulds
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital LHRC
Appoint:
Mrs. Estell Patterson

A letter of resignation from the Fairfax-Falls Church LHRC from Mr. Michael A. Pendrak was received for the file.

The State Human Rights Committee thanks Mr. Jeffrey Kail, Ms. D'Linda P. Wilson Swanston, and Mrs. Sarah Coppola for comments they provided on their LHRC re-application forms.

The SHRC notes Mrs. Sarah Coppola's praise of Sherry Miles, Regional Advocate for Region VI, and Robert Cardwell, Chairperson, Central Virginia Community Services.

The Communication Sub-committee will print some of the comments made on re-application forms in future *Human Writes* issues.

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 "Joyce E. Bozeman".

Joyce E. Bozeman, Ph.D.
Chairperson