

**State Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents
1355 Richmond Road
Staunton, Virginia, 24401
Friday, September 1, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

8:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Marsh, Chairperson
Angela Brosnan, Vice-Chairperson
Delores Archer
Joyce Bozeman
Christina Delzingaro
Carmen Thompson
Kirby Wright
Davey Zellmer

HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF PRESENT

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director
Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary
Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region I
James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region IV
Mark Seymour, Child and Adolescent Advocate, Regions I & II

OTHER STAFF PRESENT

Karen Walters, DMHMRSAS Special Counsel
Joe Tuell, Executive Director, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph G. Lynch, Interested Person

Dr. R. Michael Marsh, M.S.W., M.P.A, Ph.D., Chairperson, opened the administrative session of the State Human Rights Committee.

Orientation of New Member

Committee members introduced themselves and gave some background about themselves for new member, Christina Delzingaro. Members gave Ms. Delzingaro some of their views on the importance of the SHRC and the human rights program, and talked about changing perceptions of consumer rights and consumer care. Ms. Walsh addressed the organizational structure of the SHRC in relation to the State MHMRSAS Board and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services. Ms. Walsh also provided a brief overview of the number of complaints filed and hearings held last year. Information was given on the running of meetings, makeup of LHRCs and the SHRC. Human rights advocates present for the meeting introduced themselves to Ms. Delzingaro.

Joe Tuell, Facility Director for Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents introduced himself and provided a tour of the facility. Mr. Tuell provided background information on the facility and described the services offered and the population served.

Margaret Walsh gave an update on the status of the revision of the human rights regulations.

Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region I, introduced Mr. Joeseph G. Lynch. Mr. Lynch has submitted an application for appointment to the State Human Rights Committee. Mr. Lynch greeted the committee and gave a brief description of his background and experience.

10:00 a.m. Break

REGULAR MEETING

10:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Marsh, Chairperson
Angela Brosnan, Vice-Chairperson
Delores Archer
Joyce Bozeman
Christina Delzingaro
Carmen Thompson
Kirby Wright
Davey Zellmer

HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF PRESENT

Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director

Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary

Charles T. Collins, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region I

James O. Bowser, Jr., Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region IV

Sherry C. Miles, Regional Human Rights Advocate, Region VI

Mark Seymour, Child and Adolescent Advocate, Regions I & II

Anne Stiles, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation

Randy Urgo, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Western State Hospital

OTHER STAFF PRESENT

Karen Walters, DMHMRSAS Special Counsel

Russell Payne, Community Support Specialist, Mental Health/Community Support Services

Joe Tuell, Facility Director, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph G. Lynch, Interested Person

PRESENT VIA SPEAKERPHONE

CC Murphy, Facility Director, Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation

Dr. Mario Dennis, Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation

Cheryl Crawford, Administrative Services Coordinator, VCBR

Welcome / Call to Order

The September 1, 2006 meeting of the State Human Rights Committee was called to order by Dr. R. Michael Marsh, Chairperson. Dr. Marsh asked committee members and human rights staff to introduce themselves for those present. Joe Tuell, Facility Director for Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents thanked the committee for coming to the facility and said he welcomed the opportunity to show the facility to the SHRC.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2006 State Human Rights Committee meeting were unanimously approved as circulated.

Public Comment Period 10:30 TO 10:45

Dr. Marsh 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.

Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation

Monthly Reports for June and July, 2006

Policies: Resident Fund Accounts, Resident Property, Resident Use of the Telephone, Searches of Person and Property, and Treatment Incentive Program.

Anne Stiles, Facility Human Rights Advocate, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, was present to answer questions regarding monthly reports for June and July of 2006 and to assist with the presentation of VCBR policies Resident Fund Accounts, Resident Property, Resident Use of the Telephone, Searches of Person and Property, and Treatment Incentive Program.

CC Murphy, Facility Director, Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, Dr. Mario Dennis, and Cheryl Crawford, Administrative Services Coordinator, VCBR, were present via speakerphone to answer questions from the committee.

During the ensuing discussion VCBR staff clarified statements in the policies and committee members suggested modifications. CC Murphy thanked everyone for their help and guidance with the development of the policies.

Cheryl Crawford said the facility would like the option for each resident to authorize the facility to inspect their mail and then deliver it to their room. The current policy requires that residents be restrained while they watch their mail being opened and inspected by facility staff. Following discussion it was decided that the facility would develop an authorization form that gives the inmates this option.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve all policies as presented, subject to stated modifications. The above mentioned authorization form is to be provided to the committee for review.

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 Local Human Rights Committees and to consider the recommendation of an appointment to the SHRC.

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.

University of Virginia LHRC

Appoint:

Mr. Lester Pearlstein

Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Dawn Klemann
Ms. Melissa DeDomenico-Payne

Rockbridge Area CSB LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Leslie Cintron

Valley CSB LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton
Mrs. Josephine S. Carpenter
Mrs. Donna Logan
Mr. Jeffrey Jones

Northern Virginia Training Center
Reappoint:
Ms. Andrea Ballesteros

Fairfax-Falls Church CSB LHRC
Reappoint:
Ms. Loretta R. Redelman
Ms. Betty Gardner

Northern Virginia Regional LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Norma Lester

Chesterfield LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. January Tussing

Richmond Unified LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Betty Smooth Velez

Central State Hospital
Appoint:
Ms. Jane A. Clayborne

Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck LHRC
Appoint:
Mr. Carl F. Gerster

Peninsula Regional LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Doris R. Feltman

Eastern Virginia LHRC
Appoint:
Dr. Marcia Kennedy

Genesis LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Carol Kidd

Southeastern Virginia Training Center LHRC
Appoint:
Ms. Diane Watkins

Danville-Pittsylvania County Regional LHRC

Appoint:

Ms. Betty Brown

Southside Community Services LHRC

Appoint:

Mrs. Barbara Kittrell

Heartland Regional Human Rights Committee

Reappoint:

Mr. Royce Cersley

A motion was made and passed with one abstention to recommend that the State MHMRSAS Board appoint Mr. Joseph G. Lynch to the State Human Rights Committee.

SHRC Goals

Margaret Walsh offered to print an updated SHRC Workplan to include in the packet for the next meeting. This should help the committee in developing goals for the upcoming year.

Ms. Walsh will ask Commissioner Reinhard to come talk about the department's current goals.

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

Respectfully submitted,

R. Michael Marsh, M.S.W., M.P.A, Ph.D.
Chairperson