

New River Valley Local Human Rights Committee
Draft MINUTES
May 11, 2006

Members Present: William Fitzpatrick, Chair, Pam Tessnear, Jacqueline Fagan-Myal

Members Absent: Evelyn Gland, Angela Sutphin

Others Present: Nan Neese, Regional Advocate; Michael Turner, Carillion's St. Albans;
Jennifer Thomas, Family Preservation Services; and Lynn Chenault, Executive Director of
NRVCS.

The meeting was called to order by William Fitzpatrick in the Board Room of the NRVCS Montgomery Center located at 700 University City Boulevard, Blacksburg.

The LHRC voted to approve the Minutes as corrected of the March 9, 2006 meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Welcome New Member**-The new member was not present.
2. **Family Preservation Services Activity Report**-Family Preservation Services provides therapy without walls and is currently licensed in in-home, counseling, and day services. There are three to six children per counselor, and the counselor help the children to focus and redirect their attention in class. In addition to classroom counseling, the children receive individual counseling. Family Preservation Services are only for children receiving Medicaid. A principal or teacher usually initiates referrals. The Committee was concerned for the children who were ineligible for Medicaid but could not afford the cost of services.
3. **NRVCS Activity Report**- NRVCS requested to postpone the Activity Report. Instead, Harvey Barker, Director of Access submitted New Life Recovery's Annual Variance Report for review by the LHRC. The Variance concerns the residential substance abuse service's authority to limit and restrict access to telephone and visitation. Ms. Tessnear moved to accept the Report and directed the Advocate to forward the Annual Report to the SHRC. Jacqueline seconded the motion and it carried.
4. **St. Albans Policy and Procedure**- Mike Turner distributed the Policies and Procedures regarding restraint and seclusion as requested by the LHRC at a previous meeting. Mr. Turner emphasized that policy and training requires the use of restraint only as a last resort when other interventions fail. He reported that usage is very minimal. Policy requires a physician's order and those orders are limited to a maximum of four hours. The Committee requested Mr. Turner to bring someone from the nursing staff to help answer some questions in the next meeting.
5. **FOIA Training**- Nan conducted the Virginia Freedom of Information Act training for LHRC members. She reminded the LHRC that the programs must post publicly the Minutes and meeting schedule of the Committee.
6. **Regional Advocate's Report** – Nan distributed the new SHRC newsletter entitled *Human Writes*. She also reminded the Committee of the upcoming 2006 SHRC/LHRC Seminar to be held on September 7-8. Regrettably she announced that given limitation of space, only one representative per organization will be invited to attend.

There being no further business, Chairman Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Vanessa Thomas
Acting Secretary