

# LHRC Meeting Minutes

## July 8, 2008

### NEW RIVER VALLEY LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Bill Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He welcomed everyone and led introductions.

**Minutes:** After a couple of additions were added to the agenda, Mr. Bill Fitzpatrick, Chair recommended that the committee approve the agenda for this meeting. Pam Tessnear motioned that the agenda be approved. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. In reviewing the minutes from the May 6, 2008 meeting, Yannis Stivachtis motioned that the minutes be approved. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Regional Advocate's Report:** Nan Neese asked that the annual training that she provides on the Freedom of Information Act be postponed due to not having all of the updates made to her presentation. The committee was in favor of this decision.

Nan Neese then introduced the newest Human Rights Advocate, Adrien Monti. MS. Monti is based at Catawba Hospital but will also work with all the Roanoke Valley Providers beginning August 1, 2008.

Nan went on encouraging all of those present to continue to recruit for the three vacancies on the Committee. She urged that the recruitment specifically included an individual who is currently receiving services, which is Code mandated. She also recommended that one of the other two members be a parent, or family member of a current consumer. Ms. Pam Tessnear reported that she spoke with the clinical services committee of the Pro Bono Program through the Mental Health Association and they were going to be looking for candidates. Pam asked for paperwork so that she could hand that out when needed. Nan stated that she could email the applications as needed. Nan mentioned that NRVCS has a link on their website to the NRV LHRC meetings. Kerri Beasley will get with Mike Wade to see if the applications can be posted through a link on the NRVCS website.

Nan also reported that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services has been very involved in providing trainings in regard to the changes in the Code that were effective July 1, 2008. With this commitment she hopes that the Human Rights seminar for LHRC members may be held next year. Until that time, Nan stated that the Office of Human Rights hopes to plan and conduct regional training opportunities. Nan and Adrien will be conducting a training in the Roanoke area on "The Human Rights Complaint Process."

**Human Rights Activity Reports:** Keri Basham, of Wall Residences provided a detailed overview and update of their program. Ms. Debbie Perez-Lopez motioned to accept the report. Mr. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The next program report was provided by Parris Stafford, Director of Strengthening Our Systems. She gave an overview and update on their programs and services. Yannis Stivachtis motioned to accept the report. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### **Committee Members**

William Fitzpatrick, Chair

Pam Tessnear

Yannis Stivachtis

Debbie Perez-Lopez

Chase Niedermayer

#### **Members Present:**

William Fitzpatrick—Chair

Pam Tessnear

Yannis Stivachtis

Debbie Perez-Lopez

Chase Niedermayer

#### **Members Absent:**

None

#### **Others Present:**

Dale Cash, Camelot of VA

Ivan Velickovic, Lakeview

Blue Ridge

Gail Dutchess, Wall Residences

Keri Basham, Wall Residences

Parris Safford, Strengthening Our Systems

Nan Neese, DMHMRSAS

Adrien Monti, DMHMRSAS

Patti Dotson, NRVCS

Harvey Barker, NRVCS

Kerri Beasley—Secretary

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Nan asked that Keri Basham bring information on the Veil Bed to the next meeting. Keri agreed to do this, as well as inviting the individual for whom the device is used to participate in the review. This will be addressed in closed session at the next meeting.

**Requests for Affiliations:** Dale Cash with Camelot of VA reported on his new position with Camelot. After much discussion about recent citations through the Department of Social Services, he announced that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services has not made a decision regarding licensing. For this reason, he asked that the committee extend further temporary affiliation to Camelot until the decision is made. If they are not granted the DMHMRSAS license, Mr. Cash will notify the Committee as soon as possible.

Nan reported that in recent review with the State Human Rights Director, Margaret Walsh, the term “temporary” was not recognized within the Regulation. Nan was instructed not to recommend this status to the LHRCs. When asked, she noted that the Committee had the authority to determine their affiliation process. With some discussion the Committee decided that they would grant a “temporary” affiliation for six months. They also requested that Mr. Cash report back to them at the next LHRC meeting in September. With this agreement, Yannis Stivachtis motioned that the committee extend the current temporary affiliation, with those specific guidelines. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Keri Basham, on behalf of Wall Residences, requested that the committee extend current affiliation of two of their sponsored residential placements that have transitioned to group home status. Ms. Debbie Perez-Lopez motioned that the committee recognize the notice that two sponsored residential programs, already affiliated, have changed to group home status. Mr. Yannis Stivachtis seconded that motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Patti Dotson, on behalf of New River Valley Community Services, requested that committee grant affiliation to a new host home that was in the process of completing her home review. Mr. Yannis Stivachtis motioned that the committee extend current affiliation to the new host home. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. She also requested that affiliation be extended to a sponsored placement that has been approved, by licensing, to change to a group home. This home will house four individuals and will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Finally, Patti asked that the affiliation for Freestone #3 be terminated due to that home being closed permanently. Ms. Debbie Perez-Lopez motioned that the committee extend current affiliation to the sponsored placement that is transitioning to a group home, as well as terminate the current affiliation for Freestone #3. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. An e-mail confirmation will be distributed to members and affiliates closer to the date of the meeting.