

# LHRC Meeting Minutes

# November 13, 2008

NEW RIVER VALLEY LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Bill Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone and led introductions.

**Minutes:** In reviewing the minutes from the September 11, 2008 meeting, Chairman Fitzpatrick pointed out a typographical error that needed to be corrected. Regional Advocate, Nan Neese suggested that the committee consider a motion to add to the minutes, that the two plans presented by Keri Basham, Wall Residences be reviewed at the meeting in March 2009. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis moved to accept that suggestion and add that request to the minutes. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded and the motion was approved. Ms. Kerri Beasley, secretary, will correct the minutes to reflect this motion following today's meeting. There was no further discussion surrounding the minutes. Ms. Pam Tessnear motioned that the minutes be approved. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis 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 all committee members not being present for the mandatory training. The committee was in favor of this decision, and the training will take place at the next meeting.

Nan stressed the importance of continuing to recruit for the three vacancies on the Committee. She urged that the recruitment specifically include 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. She explained that providers are responsible for maintaining the membership of the committee and failure to do so will result in her recommendation for citation to the Office of Licensing. Ms. Pam Tessnear advised that she did forward the packet to Mental Health Association and that they identified three consumers that would potentially be willing to serve on the committee.

Nan also noted that she and Adrien Monti have been working on updating the Complaint and Resolution forms. Nan handed out a copy of the form, as a draft, and asked that it be reviewed and feedback be given to her as soon as possible.

In closing, Nan acknowledged that the central office of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services has gone through the first round of state budget cuts. There were no changes to her team.

**Human Rights Activity Reports:** John Weatherspoon, of Braley & Thompson provided a detailed overview and update of their program. Dr. Stivachtis motioned to accept the report. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mike Turner presented the Carilion St. Albans annual report to the committee. Ms. Pam Tessnear motioned to accept the report as presented. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Vena Duncan, of DePaul Family Services gave a brief description of the types of services they provide. She also pointed out that no services were offered in the New River Valley last year. Ms. Duncan reported that they are looking to start offering services again in the New River Valley in early '09. She also noted that they will be adding Mental Health Supports to their continuum of care. Nan Neese recommended that she send the committee an official

## **Committee Members**

William Fitzpatrick, Chair

Pam Tessnear

Yannis Stivachtis

Debbie Perez-Lopez

Chase Niedermayer

## **Members Present:**

William Fitzpatrick—Chair

Pam Tessnear

Yannis Stivachtis

Chase Niedermayer

## **Members Absent:**

Debbie Perez-Lopez

## **Others Present:**

John Weatherspoon - Braley & Thompson

Casey Henshaw - Family Preservation Services

Michael Turner - St. Albans

Rita Boland—St. Albans

Nikki Gearheart—St. Albans

Ivan Velickovic—Lakeview

Blueridge

Keri Basham— Wall Residences

Melissa Wall—Wall Residences

Vena Duncan—DePaul Family Services

Nan Neese—DMHMRSAS

Teresa Rose-Thornton—

NRVCS

Kerri Beasley—Secretary

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letter of notification informing them of addition and when they will start providing services again. Vena will return for the January '09 meeting to present the addition of the new service.

**Requests for Affiliations:** Ms. Teresa Rose-Thornton, of NRVCS, asked that the agency's current affiliation be extended to three additional host homes. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis motioned to extend the current affiliation to these three homes. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Nan asked for an updated list of the current homes under the affiliation. Kerri Beasley will email updated list to Nan following the meeting. Teresa also notified the committee of the closure of two homes, as well as the addition of Psychosocial Rehab classes to the Montgomery and Pulaski locations. This services is already part of the NRVCS license. Pam Tessnear motioned that the committee accept the notification of closure on the two homes and the addition of the PSR classes to two additional locations. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Due to no one being present from Camelot, to update the committee on their status, Chair Bill Fitzpatrick asked Nan for some direction in the matter. Nan responded by saying that she was not certain that the new individuals in charge had seen the minutes from the previous meeting indicating that they must be present today. She went on to say that we are talking about two facilities that house children and she would feel more comfortable with this committee continuing the affiliation until the next meeting. She took responsibility for notifying Camelot representatives of the next meeting and what is expected of them at that time. After much discussion around the committee's concerns Pam Tessnear motioned that the committee continue to extend affiliation to the sites in Roanoke and Wytheville until the meeting in January. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

John Weatherspoon, of Braley & Thompson presented the committee with the Policy and Procedures manual, and requested extension of affiliation for their new Mental Health Supports program which has been approved by the Office of Licensing and added to their services. Dr. Stivachtis motioned that the committee accept and extend current affiliation to Braley & Thompson for this new services. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Keri Basham, of Wall Residences asked the committee for extension of affiliation to the Leffler services. This is a new home operating in the Christiansburg area. She also asked for the same in regards to the Burnette-Dunning services. This house was already in existence, but she wanted to make the committee aware of the addition of Dunning as a co-provider. Keri also wanted to notify the committee of a service relocation in Blacksburg. Dr. Stivachtis motioned that the committee extend affiliation to the Leffler service and accept the notification of the Burnette-Dunning service and relocation of another service. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Affiliation Fees:** Chair, Bill Fitzpatrick offered discussion around increasing the annual affiliation fees. The current fee is \$150.00 per year. Those fees are due February 1, 2009 for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2009. After discussion about the average fee state-wide the committee decided to leave the fee at \$150.00 and revisit the idea next year. Kerri will be sending affiliation agreements out in December.

**Closed Session:** Ms. Pam Tessnear moved and Dr. Stivachtis seconded to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 A(4) and (15) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of medical and mental records, namely to conduct a review of individualized services plans.

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Ms. Tessnear moved to reconvene the NRV LHRC committee into public session, and Dr. Stivachtis seconded. Upon reconvening in open session, the members individually certified that to the best of their knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements were heard, discussed, or considered.

Back in open session, Pam Tessnear moved to accept the notice of implementation of the tracking device reported by Ms. Karen Frazier of NRVCS. The committee agreed that the notification of use was sufficient and that the plan did not need to be reviewed. She also moved to accept the addendum to the plan review for M.T. presented by Paula Olinger of NRVCS. The committee asked that the plan be brought back for review in nine months, unless there were any changes made to the plan prior to that meeting. Dr. Stivachtis seconded both motions. Both motions were approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. An e-mail confirmation will be distributed to members and affiliates closer to the date of the meeting