

# LHRC Meeting Minutes

## September 11, 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. He also acknowledged that the Regional Human Rights Advocate, Nan Neese was joining us by conference phone for the first part of our meeting. Mr. Fitzpatrick also mentioned adding an item to the agenda, the affiliate fee. Ms. Pam Tessnear motioned to add the item to the agenda, and approve the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved.

**Minutes:** In reviewing the minutes from the July 8, 2008 meeting, Chairman Fitzpatrick pointed out a few typographical errors that needed to be corrected. Ms. Kerri Beasley, secretary, made note of these changes to correct after the meeting is adjourned. There was no further discussion surrounding the minutes. Dr. 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 her not being able to join the meeting in person. The committee was in favor of this decision.

Nan reminded all of those present to continue 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.

Due to joining us by conference phone, Nan asked that the committee address the issue surrounding the Camelot of Virginia licensing situation. She announced that since the meeting in July, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services had declined to license the Christiansburg and Pilot sites for Camelot. She also announced that Dale Cash, Camelot's quality specialist was no longer with the company. Currently this committee is responsible for the Camelot sites in Wytheville and Roanoke as well. Because of this, Nan strongly suggested that the committee continue to grant affiliation only until the affiliations could be transferred to the Blue Ridge and Mt. Rogers committees. Nan stated that she would request the transfer happen as soon as possible. There was a lot of discussion around what the committee is requiring Camelot to do in order to maintain the temporary affiliation. It was agreed that Camelot must have a representative present at the next meeting. They must also be ready to give a detailed update of their status and what they are doing to improve their facilities. It was also decided that once the transfer of affiliation with the Wytheville site and Roanoke site were completed, the committee would terminate the temporary affiliation for the Christiansburg and Pilot sites. With no further discussion, Ms. Pam Tessnear motioned that the committee continue with the temporary affiliation until the transfer of affiliation is made, only if Camelot adheres to the requirements passed down by the committee. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

**Human Rights Activity Reports:** Scott Worley, of Creative Family Solutions provided a detailed overview and update of their program. Dr. 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

Chase Niedermayer

### Members Absent:

Debbie Perez-Lopez

### Others Present:

John Weatherspoon - Braley & Thompson

Casey Henshaw - Family Preservation Services

Michael Turner - St. Albans

Claire Fortney - NRVCS

Megan Dean - NRVCS

Scott Worley - Creative Family Solutions

Melissa Poindexter - Creative Family Solutions

Keri Basham, Wall Residences

Nan Neese, DMHMRSAS

Teresa Rose-Thornton,

NRVCS

Kerri Beasley—Secretary

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**Requests for Affiliations:** Ms. Teresa Rose-Thornton, of NRVCS, asked that the agency's current affiliation be extended to two additional host homes. The Jessica Stever's home, the Archana Pokharel home. There being no discussion, Dr. Yannis Stivachtis motioned to extend the current affiliation to these two homes. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Ms. Kerri Beasley, of NRVCS, gave notice that the Floyd office had moved to a new location. She added that no additional services were being offered, it was simply an address change. She also offered notification that the ICT team was currently operational. This program had been granted affiliation at the last meeting. The committee accepted the notification on both issues.

Ms. Dana Shultz and Ms. Linda Felts, both of NRVCS, presented a new program in the Child and Family services unit to the committee. The HART program is modeled after the adult host home, however, has very intensive services attached to the actual home. One child would be identified and placed in the home. While there, the child would receive intensive in-home services, mental health supports, and psychiatric services with NRVCS. Having presented they asked for an extension of the current affiliation with NRVCS to their new program. Ms. Pam Tessnear motioned that the committee extend affiliation to the HART program. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Casey Henshaw, of Family Preservation, requested affiliation for Day Treatment services at Fort Chiswell Middle School. Dr. Stivachtis motioned that the committee extend current affiliation to include Day Treatment at Fort Chiswell Middle School. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Closed Session:** Ms. Pam Tessnear moved and Dr. Stivachtis seconded to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 A(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

Teresa Rose-Thornton of NRVCS, presented that the plan for M.K. was no longer being used due to providing a personal refrigerator. The committee agreed to remove the plan review from future agendas.

Keri Basham, of Wall Residence, Inc., along with M.J. presented the veil bed to the committee. This presentation was for informational purposes only. Keri also presented an addendum to the restraint review for CRM. The committee requested that Ms. Basham report back on this addendum at the March meeting.

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, Dr. Yannis Stivachtis moved to accept the report on and use of the veil bed. He also moved to accept the addendum to the restraint review for CRM. Ms. Pam Tessnear seconded both motions. All motions were approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. An e-mail confirmation will be distributed to members and affiliates closer to the date of the meeting.