

LHRC Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2015

NEW RIVER VALLEY LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Welcome and Introductions:

Vice-Chair, Chase Niedermayer called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m. Niedermayer welcomed attendees and led introductions.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

Melissa Jackson of NRVCS requested two additions to the agenda: review of the New Horizons Program Rules and Tobacco Policy. Wall Residences requested three additions to the agenda: two requests to extend affiliation to new homes (Ronan and Cornett Homes) and one additional safety plan review in Closed Session. Lori Mick moved to approve the agenda with the additions noted. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Minutes:

Committee members received in their packets the minutes from the May 14, 2015 meeting. Sandra Via moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Regional Advocate's Report:

Nan Neese, Regional Advocate for DBHDS, presented her report. Neese offered words of thanks to former Chair Beth Deskins, noting Deskins was unable to be present at the May meeting. Neese noted Deskins was appointed to the committee in June of 2009 and Neese shared a few memories related to Deskins' service. Deskins was also presented with a certificate of recognition. Neese reported the NRV LHRC currently has two vacancies and those vacancies need to be filled as soon as possible. Neese encouraged affiliates to recruit consumer members and reminded attendees the State committee is reviewing membership and vacancies at every meeting. Extended vacancies may put committees at risk of being disbanded. Neese presented a brief training for committee members on the LHRC's Responsibility as a Reviewer. Neese noted the importance of reviewing program rules and individual plans and providing oversight to ensure compliance with regulations. Providers should educate the committee about how an individual's rights are affected when presenting policies and plans. Neese often reviews such items prior to meetings and provides comment to the committee. Committee members should ask appropriate questions and seek education on therapeutic benefits of such policies and plans. Neese also noted providers have been asked to include their human rights notices with annual reports. Many providers continue to use notices that are similar to a notice developed by the department in 1999 and there have been numerous updates to regulations since then. Notices need to be updated and used as a training tools for individuals to teach them what their rights are. Neese reported there is related training material on the department's website for anyone interested.

Annual Human Rights Activity Reports:

The 2014 Annual Human Rights Activity Reports of Strengthening Our System, Wall Residences, Intercept Youth, Intercept Autumn House and Intercept Carriage House were included in meeting packets. Reports were presented by Stephanie Bakely of Strengthening Our System, Amanda Craig of Wall Residences, Jennifer Sherman of Intercept Youth, and Matt Milovich of Intercept Autumn House and Intercept Carriage House. Lori Mick moved to approve the reports as presented. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Committee Members

Lori Mick
Chase Niedermayer
Rhonda Quesenberry
Joseph Roy-Stewart
Sandra Via

Members Present:

Lori Mick
Chase Niedermayer
Joseph Roy-Stewart
Sandra Via

Members Absent:

Rhonda Quesenberry

Others Present:

Bobbi Weeks
Carilion Saint Albans

Scott Worley
Creative Family Solutions

Nan Neese
DBHDS

Matt Milovich,
Jennifer Sherman
Intercept

Carrie Browder, Melissa Jackson, Reece Nielson, Keisha Riley, Kat Saunders, Lauren Tate, Jessica Williams
NRVCS

Stephen Crawford
Safe Haven Family Svcs.

Stephanie Bakely
Strengthening Our System

Genevieve King
Pulaski Medical

Amanda Craig
Wall Residences

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Quarterly Human Rights Activity Reports:

None.

Requests for Affiliation:

Jennifer Sherman of Intercept Youth requested extension of affiliation for Therapeutic Day Treatment at Hurt Park Elementary School, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, and Hope Tree Boys Woods Program. Sandra Via moved to extend affiliation as requested. Joseph Roy-Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Amanda Craig of Wall Residences requested extension of affiliation to two new homes, the Ronan Home at a new location in Christiansburg and the Cornett Home in Galax. Joseph Roy-Stewart moved to extend affiliation as requested. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Notice to Conclude Affiliations:

None.

Policy and Procedure Review:

Kat Saunders of NRVCS presented their New Life Program Rules, a copy of which was included in meeting packets. In response to guidance from Neese, Saunders reported the following changes would be incorporated in the Program Rules: a reference to Human Rights Regulations; an LHRC review date; removal of the word "privilege" in reference to phone access; addition of language around phone restriction. Saunders noted Program Rule violations are clinically reviewed for each individual and dismissals are not necessarily automatic. There being no further discussion, Lori Mick moved to approve the Program Rules with the changes noted. Joseph Roy-Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Carrie Browder of NRVCS discussed their Review of Informed Consent Policy. Lori Mick moved to temporarily approve the policy until the next LHRC meeting with the understanding the committee would be provided a full copy of the policy prior to the next meeting. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Reece Nielson of NRVCS presented the New Horizons Program Rules and Tobacco Policy, copies of which were handed out to the committee. After a brief period of discussion on the subject of providing advance notice to individuals, Joseph Roy-Stewart moved to approve the Program Rules and Tobacco Policy. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Officer Elections for NRV LHRC:

Joseph Roy-Stewart moved to approve the following slate of officers: Chase Niedermayer as Chair, Sandra Via as Vice-Chair, and Lori Mick as Secretary. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Closed Session:

Lori Mick moved to convene in a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711 A(4) and section (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 review 3 existing safety plans for Wall Residences, 2 new safety plans for Wall Residences and 1 new restrictive plan for NRVCS. Joseph Roy-Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. After a period of discussion, Lori Mick moved to reconvene into public session. Joseph Roy-Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Each member then certified that to the best of their knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were heard, discussed, or considered.

Lori Mick moved to approve the following: the NRVCS restrictive plan for EG until the next LHRC meeting; the two Wall Residences safety plans for CP for a period of 6 months, with Neese following up with the provider regarding incorporating physical restraint in the plans; and the Wall Residences safety plans for JW, RH, and CD for a period of 6 months. Joseph Roy-Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m. The next NRV LHRC meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2015.