

LHRC Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2016

NEW RIVER VALLEY LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair, Chase Niedermayer called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Niedermayer welcomed attendees and led introductions.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

Amanda Craig of Wall Residences requested the addition of five treatment plan reviews in closed session and the withdrawal of one treatment plan review in closed session. Tami King of FPS requested the addition of two affiliation extension requests for psychosocial rehab at 401 S. Main Street in Galax and TDT/Therapeutic After School at Glenvar Elementary in Salem, as well as, extension to a new satellite office at 106 Calhoun Street in Galax for the provision of Outpatient Counseling for children and adults and other administrative purposes. Sandra Via moved to approve the agenda with the additions noted. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Minutes:

Committee members received in their packets the minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting. Lori Mick noted the name of Joseph Roy-Stewart should be added to the list of committee members. Rhonda Quesenberry moved to approve the minutes with the correction noted. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Committee members received in their packets the subcommittee minutes from the November 12, 2015 meeting. Lori Mick moved to approve the minutes and all recommendations made by the subcommittee. Rhonda Quesenberry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Regional Advocate's Report:

Dwayne Lynch, Regional Advocate for DBHDS, presented his report. Lynch announced Regional Advocate Nan Neese has decided to retire, effective early Spring. Lynch shared the personal circumstances which led to Neese's decision and discussed milestones in Neese's career with the Department. Lynch reported Neese wishes to thank the committee for its hard work and dedication and had wanted to appear personally today. Providers are asked to contact Lynch or B. J. McNight with any issues or questions and Lynch noted he will likely be covering future NRV LHRC meetings until further notice.

Lynch reported on proposed human rights regulation changes which are out for public comment until February 12, 2016. Lynch discussed proposed changes that will streamline the complaint/allegation processes. Lynch also discussed proposed changes to LHRC structure and function. There is a proposal to reduce the number of LHRCs down to 10 and providers will not longer be required to affiliate with an LHRC. Providers will attend meetings only when necessary and LHRCs will focus on hearings, behavioral plan reviews, next friend requests, etc. LHRCs will no longer provider administrative oversight. Lynch discussed the value LHRCs and the hearing process provide for individuals. Lynch noted it is business as usual for now but committee members and providers are encouraged to review the proposed changes and provide comment. A link will be sent to providers and committee members.

While not discussed at this time, later in the meeting Lynch reported LHRC committee member recruitment efforts should continue.

Annual Human Rights Activity Reports:

None

Committee Members

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

Members Present:

Lori Mick
Chase Niedermayer
Rhonda Quesenberry
Sandra Via

Members Absent:

Joseph Roy-Stewart

Others Present:

Amanda Craig
Wall Residences

Kaylei Branch, Michael Holton
NeuroRestorative

Tami King, Jessie Woods
Family Preservation Svcs.

Melissa Jackson, Heather Rupe
NRVCS

Stephanie Bakely
Strengthening Our System

Dwayne Lynch
DBHDS

Danielle Johnson
Jennifer Sherman
Intercept

Stephen Crawford
Safe Haven Family Svcs.

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Quarterly Human Rights Activity Reports:

Tami King presented the corrected 2015 Q3 Report of Family Preservation, noting the addition of one violation which resulted in discharge of a staff member. Lori Mick moved to approve the report as presented. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Requests for Affiliation:

Heather Rupe of NRVCS requested extension of affiliation for TDT at Dublin Middle School, 650 Giles Avenue in Dublin, and to two new sponsored homes (the Cunningham Home at 110 Fisher Drive in Pembroke and the Bourne Home at 1868 Seymour Drive in Blacksburg). Sandra Via moved to extend affiliation as requested. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Amanda Craig of Wall Residences requested extension of affiliation to a new sponsored home, the Nester home, at 188 Sunrise Drive in Austinville. Rhonda Quesenberry moved to extend affiliation as requested. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Tami King of FPS requested extension of affiliation to 401 S. Main Street in Galax for Psychosocial Rehab, to Glenvar Elementary in Salem for TDT/Therapeutic After School and to a new satellite office at 106 Calhoun Street in Galax for the provision of Outpatient Counseling for children and adults and other administrative purposes. Sandra Via moved to extend affiliation as requested. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Notice to Conclude Affiliations:

Heather Rupe of NRVCS requested conclusion of affiliation for two sponsored homes, the Robertson Home at 1108 Westview Street in Narrows and the Frost Home at 4033 Robinson Tract in Pulaski. Amanda Craig of Wall Residences requested conclusion of affiliation for three sponsored homes, the Allen Home at 2354 Little Mountain Road in New Castle, the Fendley Home at 189 White Oak Drive in Floyd, and the Grasse Home at 32 Cowboy Trail in Woodlawn. Lori Mick moved to conclude affiliations as requested. Rhonda Quesenberry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Policy and Procedure Review:

Kaylei Branch of NeuroRestorative presented their House Rules, noting it has been several years since their House Rules were approved and a few minor revisions are necessary. In response to a question from committee member Lori Mick, Branch discussed the rules around designated smoking times and efforts to reduce smoking among residents. Branch confirmed the changes have been discussed with residents. Branch discussed a few other changes around company vehicles and use of head phones. Regional Advocate Dwayne Lynch thanked NeuroRestorative for bringing the House Rules before the LHRC and reminded providers program rules and group rules must always be approved by the LHRC. Lynch offered cautionary advice on things like provider rules of conduct or anything that can result in an individual's discharge/termination, encouraging providers to consult with an advocate on such things which may also require LHRC approval. There being no further discussion, Sandra Via moved to approve the House Rules with minor changes to correct grammatical errors. Rhonda Quesenberry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Closed Session:

Rhonda Quesenberry 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 five restrictive plans for Wall Residences and to conduct a Next Friend AR review for Wall Residences. Sandra Via seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. After a period of discussion, Rhonda Quesenberry moved to reconvene into public session. Sandra Via 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.

Sandra Via move to approve the Wall Residences Next Friend AR appointment for GD and to approve four restrictive plans for Wall Residences for one year for CP, JW, RH, and CD and to add one restrictive plan update for CP at the next meeting of the NRV LHRC. Lori Mick second the motion which was unanimously approved.

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Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30p.m. The next NRV LHRC meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2016.