

LHRC Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2009

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: There being no discussion regarding the minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting, Pam Tessnear motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Dr. Yannis Stivachtis seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Regional Advocate's Report: Nan distributed a memo to both the LHRC and the providers clarifying reporting requirements to both the Committee and the Office of Human Rights. She handed out example forms for timely reporting of complaints of violations and allegations of abuse/neglect and reminded providers that there is much information on the Department's website. Nan also shared some recommendations for revisions to the Affiliation Agreement and distributed the Agreement for further discussion at the July meeting. The members engaged in a brief discussion about the format for future provider reporting.

On behalf of the Department and the Human Rights Program, Nan extended appreciation to William J. FitzPatrick, Ph. D., Pam Tessnear, Clinical Psychologist, and Deborah Perez-Lopez for their service on the New River Valley Local Human Rights Committee. Bill and Pam's terms will expire effective June 30th and Debbie having accepted a position with the Community Services is no longer eligible to serve on the LHRC. The providers joined Nan in recognizing these members extraordinary commitment and work.

Recognition of Service: At the conclusion of her report, Nan took a moment to recognize Chairman Bill Fitzpatrick, Pam Tessnear, and Debbie Perez-Lopez for their services as volunteers on the LHRC committee. Each of these members' term will expire at the end of June, thus being their last meeting. Each member was presented with a certificate from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Service for their service.

Human Rights Activity Reports: Scott Worley with Creative Family Solutions presented their annual report to the committee. The report touched on the services that the agency provides, the population it works with, as well as human rights issues. At the conclusion of the report Dr. Stivachtis motioned to accept the report as presented. Ms. Perez-Lopez seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Vena Duncan with Depaul Family Services reported to the committee that her annual report reflects that there were no services provided to individuals in the New River Valley in the calendar year 2008. Their goal was to begin providing those services again in 2009, and it was reported that they are currently doing that. Duncan also noted that effective July 1, 2009 the agency name will be Depaul Community Resources. Tessnear motioned to accept the report and notification of name change. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Andi Carter with Family Preservation Services presented their annual report to the committee. The report gave an overview of the services they provide and populations they serve. At the conclusion of the report Tessnear motioned to accept the report as presented. Niedermayer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Committee Members

Yannis Stivachtis

Chase Niedermayer

Lori Mick

Rhonda Quesenberry

Members Present:

William Fitzpatrick—Chair

Pam Tessnear

Yannis Stivachtis

Debbie Perez-Lopez

Chase Niedermayer

Lori Mick

Members Absent:

Rhonda Quesenberry

Others Present:

John Weatherspoon - Intercept Youth Services

Teresa Poole—Lakeview

Blue Ridge

Ivan Velickovic— Lakeview

Blue Ridge

Keri Basham— Wall Residences

Melissa Wall—Wall Residences

Vena Duncan—Depaul

Community Resources

Andi Carter—Family Preservation Services

Mark Akers—Family Preservation Services

Scott Worley—Creative Family Solutions

Stephanie Lane—NRVCS

Karen Frazier—NRVCS

Jonathan Whited—NRVCS

Nan Neese—DMHMRSAS

Kerri Beasley—Secretary

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Kerri Beasley with NRVCS presented their annual report to the committee. The report highlighted the various required trainings for staff, number of individuals served in the last year, and human rights issues. After brief discussion of a particular human rights incident, Dr. Stivachtis motioned to accept the report as presented. Lori Mick seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Requests for Affiliation: John Weatherspoon with Intercept Youth Services updated the committee on the status of the New River Valley office. The office is located in Christiansburg at this time. On April 27th the license modification was granted. They are working on expanding services into the Roanoke. Dr. Stivachtis motioned to continue affiliation with Intercept Youth Services and revisit the issue when license is granted for the Roanoke site. Perez-Lopez seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Family Preservation services requested extension of affiliation for Therapeutic Day Treatment at Rural Retreat Elementary, Fancy Gap Elementary, Carroll County Intermediate, Regional Alternative Education Center, and Sheffey Elementary schools. Dr. Stivachtis motioned to extend affiliation to the schools previously listed. Mick seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Kerri Beasley with NRVCS requested extension of affiliation to a new host home in Bland, VA. Dr. Stivachtis motioned to extend affiliation to the Mary Ann Long Home. Perez-Lopez seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Melissa Wall with Wall Residences notified the committee of the change of location for the Atwell and Mitchell Services. Dr. Stivachtis motioned to accept notification of these location changes. Perez-Lopez seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Closed Session: Debbie Perez-Lopez motioned that the committee convene in a closed meeting 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. Pam Tessnear seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

Following a period of discussion, Tessnear made a motion that the board reconvene into public session. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by roll call. Upon reconvening in open session, the members individually certified that only such public business matters identified in the motion for closed session were heard, discussed, and considered.

Back in open session, Dr. Stivachtis motioned that the committee accept the presented plan from NRVCS and requested a review of the plan at the meeting in July. Mick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mick motioned to continue approval of the plan presented by Wall Residences with a review at the May 2010 meeting. Dr. Stivachtis seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. An e-mail confirmation will be distributed to members and affiliates closer to the date of the meeting.