

## Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

**The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be on January 12, 2010 at Lutheran Family Services beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

### **MINUTES OF THE November 10, 2009 LHRC MEETING**

The November 10, 2009 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Grafton's Ruth Birch Center in Winchester, VA.

**Members Present:** Mr. Fred Sabia, Ms. Jeanne Decker, Ms. Jean Snider, Ms. Darlene Gotterup, and Ms. Nancy Cartier.

**Others Present:** Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Kristian Sawyer and Angel Brown (A Place To Call Home); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Denise Wiitale McFall (Bridging the Gaps); Eileen Martelli (Children's Services of VA); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives of VA); Heidi Fields (Family Preservation); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corp); Amy Smith, Sue Hahn, Kelly Coffman (Grafton); Chris Rousseau (Intensive Supervision); Eddie Cassidy (Lord Fairfax House); Cassie Phipps (Lutheran Family Services); Diann Coulson (National Counseling Group); Emily Johnson and Michele Kasen (NOVA Family Services); Glenda Anderson and Carol Cave (NW Works); Tammie Wittmann (Rose Memorial); Mickie Duncan, Barbie Sharp(Shen-Paco); Ralph Combs and Mike Lackey (SVCR); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mandy Caracofe (Where The Heart Is)' and Kevin Young, Gayle Shanholtz, and Desiree Brunelle (Winchester

**Call To Order:** Mr. Sabia called the meeting to order at 6:3. He thanked Grafton for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. He asked that everyone introduce themselves and asked the affiliates to briefly inform the group what services they provide.

**Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Cartier made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Decker seconded, the motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

#### **Comments by LHRC Affiliates or Members:**

- ❖ Lutheran Family Services – had a surprise visit from Chris Cart with no citations. The Heart Gallery is opening in Creekside featuring children in foster care waiting to be adopted. New staff has been hired and the program is expanding.
- ❖ A Place to Call Home – had a visit from Chris Cart and unless something comes up by 12/6, will have 3 years without any citations.
- ❖ Lord Fairfax House – had a visit from Chris Cart
- ❖ Timber Ridge – had an undefeated football season with only 2 boys returning from last year. As part of either court orders or school program, boys do

- community services to the Veteran Administration. The veterans came to Timber Ridge this year.
- ❖ Shen – Paco – has submitted their policies and procedures for the group home in Luray. Mr. Collins informed them that they will need to be placed on an upcoming agenda as part of licensure for the new group home.
  - ❖ Good Life Corporation – a visit from Chris Cart was also made here. The new group home has opened and the intensity of the opposition has died down with the mentioning of the Fair Housing Act in a letter from the attorney. Some neighbors did visit to welcome them to the neighborhood.
  - ❖ Grafton – the Berryville campus has opened a green house and has a volleyball team which has won the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the tournament. On 12/1, 1 of the seclusion room doors will be removed.
  - ❖ Children's Services of VA – received a visit from Chris Cart and their license has been renewed.

### **Advocate Update:**

Mr. Seymour reported that there had been a flood at Commonwealth Center and all operations were moved to Building B at Western State Hospital. All admissions have resumed in the new location. The move is expected to last approximately 90 days. The temporary facilities allow for only 1 seclusion room. Telephone numbers are the same and Mr. Seymour will check the fax number to be used. At the meeting in September, there was discussion regarding programs in schools with increased in-home services. He feels that some agencies are operating under the assumption that they have a license to provide a service when in fact they do not.

Mr. Collins reported on the budget. There have been 3 positions eliminated from his office. The advocate at Western State Hospital will leave at the end of December. He and Mr. Seymour will have WSH added to their duties. Licensure lost 2 positions, and nine were eliminated when the central office closed the state pharmacy. This affects mental health clients who have been discharged from a state hospital. The CSBs were given 30 days' notice to find alternative medication delivery systems. Funding is being given to the CSBs but it will be based on last year's allotment. The state pharmacy was able to buy medications in large quantities which kept the cost down. CSB's do not currently have the same type of negotiating power. Some clients are being connected with the patient assistance program if they are eligible. The impact is immediate and will also affect future changes if a new patient comes into a CSBs catchment area or if an existing client's prescription changes.

UVA will close 1 of its 2 acute units. The change in having 36 beds to 16 beds will take effect in March or April. Having the psych beds available as close as Winchester is a blessing.

**Program Reports:**

Timber Ridge –  
Wall Residences –  
WMC Behavioral Health Unit – the request for changing the hours is been withdrawn

There was much discussion regarding the reporting and submitting information to the committee from the affiliates. The new 2010 agreement and meeting schedule will be sent to the affiliates with all the “kinks” worked out.

**Old Business:** There will be no affiliation fee for 2010 for existing agencies.

**New Business:** Mr. Sabia reviewed the 2010 meetings: January 12 – Lutheran Family Services; March 9 – Shen-Paco Industries; May 11 – Rose Memorial; July 13 – NW Works; September 14 – Good Life Corporation; and November 9 – WMC. For those affiliates hosting the meetings, directions will be forward the Gail so she can send out with meeting information.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:13

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gail R. Partlowe, NWCSB Administrative Office Manager

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Fred Sabia, Chair

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Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison