

LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee
Meeting of April 24, 2009

*****FINAL*****

PRESENT

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD. LHRC Chair
Kathleen Dring, Psy.D., LHRC Vice Chair
Mary Ann Jackson, LHRC Secretary
Tracy Ferguson, LHRC
Stewart Prost, Human Rights Advocate DMHMRSAS
James Jack, Pendleton Child Services Center
Jeffrey Burns, Tidewater Psychotherapy Services
Roseann Smith, Finney Psychotherapy Associates
Kissey Curry, Atlantic Psychiatric Services
Damon Sutton, Paramount Youth Services
Nina Joyner, New Life Programs and Family Systems II
Angelo Morlino, Vito, Inc.
James Lassiter, Family Net
Monica C. Manley, The Barry Robinson Center
Elaine Martin, Applicant

ABSENT

Chairperson Viola Vaughan-Eden called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Monica C. Manley announced that Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden and Ms. Mary Ann Jackson had completed their terms on the committee. She thanked them for volunteering their time and as an expression of appreciation, she gave them each a plaque and a gift basket.

2009 Meeting Dates

The remaining 2009 Meeting Dates are July 24 and October 23.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Advocate's Report

Stewart Prost reported the State Human Rights Office has hired a new advocate, Mr. Bryan Whitley. He is currently in training and will be observing other advocates. Mr. Prost indicated the office is very busy with new programs and related issues. He stated there are currently 24 local human rights committees (LHRCs) statewide. Since there are more programs requesting affiliation, licensing and human rights will remain busy. Also, more LHRCs may be created.

He reminded the providers that our committee would be losing two members, which will only leave two members. Mr. Prost stated the committee needs two consumers and one general person. He stated he was pleased that Mrs. Martin was present and considering membership on the committee. Nonetheless, even if she is interviewed and accepted, the committee would only have three members, which constitutes a quorum. The committee should have a minimum of five members. He informed the providers that he must receive additional applicants as soon as possible. Mr. Prost distributed applications to the providers. He suggested that if he does not receive additional applicants that the providers should publicly advertise.

Mr. Prost reminded everyone that Mental Retardation will be renamed Intellectual Disabilities effective July 1, 2009. In addition, DMHMRSAS will also become the Department of Behavioral Development and Health Support (DBDHS).

He reported that Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC) would remain open. The state has approved rebuilding and downsizing to 75 beds and providing funding for 12 Intermediate Care Facilities, 6 Medicaid Waiver homes. The goal is to have more people integrated into the community.

Since our committee will be losing two members and gaining new members, Mr. Prost informed the Committee that he would defer providing training on the Freedom of Information Act until the next meeting (July 2009).

Program Reports

1. Pendleton Child Services Center – James Jack reported they are currently serving 18 residents in the residential program and 5 students in their day-treatment program. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
2. Tidewater Psychotherapy – Jeff Burns reported they are currently serving 81 clients in 9 intensive outpatient and substance abuse groups. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
3. Finney Psychiatric Associates – Roseann Smith reported they are currently serving 10 adult clients in their intensive outpatient chemical dependency program and 3 adults in their relapse prevention program. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
4. Atlantic Psychiatric Services – Kiskey Curry reported their intensive outpatient program is currently under reconstruction. There were no restraints, complaints, or other human rights issues.
5. Paramount Youth Services – Damon Sutton reported they are currently serving 17 clients in 4 group homes. There were no restraints. He reported that there was one allegation against a staff. He requested to discuss the allegation during closed session. Mr. Sutton reported he missed the January 2009 LHRC meeting secondary to their central office relocated and receiving the reminder letter after the meeting had occurred. He apologized to the committee and requested that Paramount Youth Services be restored to permanent affiliation. Dr. Vaughan-Eden discussed the seriousness of missing meetings and the importance of identifying a proxy who could attend with short notice. Mr. Sutton was receptive. A motion was made, seconded and approved that Paramount Youth Services be reinstated to permanent affiliation status.
6. New Life – Nina Joyner reported they are currently serving 45 intensive in-home clients within New Life. Mary's House has 2 residents. William Stallings Project has no resident. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.
7. Family Systems II – Nina Joyner reported there are 97 clients receiving intensive in-home services. There are 25 receiving mental health support and 46 clients in the therapeutic day treatment program. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.

Ms. Joyner requested permanent affiliation for five sites (Southwestern Elementary School, John Yeates Middle School, Forest Glen Middle School, Lakeland High School

and Churchland Academy). A motion was made, seconded and approved that the five schools be moved to permanent affiliation.

8. Vito Inc. – Angelo Morlino reported they are currently serving 46 in-home clients and 37-day support clients. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues. He requested temporary affiliation for a Day Support Program in VA Beach. He provided the committee with a copy of the letter he has submitted to Mr. Reginald Daye, Regional Human Rights Advocate. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Day Treatment program be moved to temporary affiliation.
9. Family Net – James Lassiter reported they currently have 8 clients receiving in-home services. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues. Mr. Lassiter reported he missed the January 2009 LHRC meeting secondary to have a medical crisis on the way to the meeting. He apologized to the committee and requested that Family Net be restored to permanent affiliation. Dr. Vaughan-Eden discussed the seriousness of missing meetings and the importance of identifying a proxy who could attend with short notice. Mr. Lassiter was receptive. A motion was made, seconded and approved that Family Net be reinstated to permanent affiliation status.
10. The Barry Robinson Center – HomeBase Services – Monica Manley reported 95 clients are receiving in-home services. HomeBase Services also provide weekly anger management groups and a substance abuse group. There were no restraints, complaints or other human rights issues.
11. The Barry Robinson Center – The LHRC reviewed The Barry Robinson Center's statistical reports regarding structured living, reports to Licensing/Human Rights and special treatment procedure utilization. Also, the LHRC reviewed, moved, seconded and recommended to the State Human Rights Committee the continuation of the structured living variance in the BRC residential programs.

Executive Session

A motion was made and passed that the LHRC enter into an Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-371 (A) for the purpose of interviewing applicant Elaine Martin, reviewing the allegation at Paramount Youth Services and The Barry Robinson Center's occurrence report.

Exit Executive Session

Upon reconvening into public session, the LHRC unanimously certified to the best of each member's knowledge, only public matters, lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified to the motion to reconvene this session, the Executive Session, were discussed in the Executive Session.

After reconvening into public session, the Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee indicated they made no recommendations regarding the allegation at Paramount Youth Services or any of the occurrences at The Barry Robinson Center.

They recommended that the State Human Rights Committee approve Mrs. Martin to become a Southside Regional Local Human Rights Committee member.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.