

METROPOLITAN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES
January 25, 2024
9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharae Henderson, Chair
Danielle Johnson, Co-Chair
Pamela Jones, Secretary
Mark Smallcombe, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kiva Gatewood, Member
Nikivias Goode, Member
Nikea Hardy, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Amaya Henderson, Advocate
Bridget Bland, Advocate
Cheryl Young, Technical Advisor

CALL TO ORDER

Sharae Henderson, called the meeting to order at 9:44 am.
Introductions were made by all present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mark Smallcombe made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Pamela Jones and approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 28, 2023 committee meeting; October 26, 2023 subcommittee meeting; and December 7, 2023 subcommittee meetings were reviewed. Mark Smallcombe made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Danielle Johnson and approved by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharae Henderson, Chair has accepted a position with DBHDS and may have to resign from the committee. A recent email regarding state employees serving on the committees may allow her to remain on the committee. She will keep the group updated with her status.

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

4th quarter ending 12/31/23 in Region 4

- 23 complaints involving allegations of ANE (CSB)
- 478 complaints involving allegations of ANE (Providers)
- 17 Complaints not involving ANE (CSB)

- 51 Complaints not involving ANE (Providers)
 - 569 total complaints received

Of Q4's 569 total complaints, 131 allegations involving ANE were substantiated.

There are no current variances under review in region 4

Please contact Andrea Milhouse via email andrea.milhouse@dbhds.virginia.gov if you no of anyone interested in becoming a member of Region 4's LHRCs.

Community Look Behinds have now resumed across all regions. Regional advocates will reach out to providers as they receive samples of case/providers to work with.

Recruitment for the position of Regional Advocate Manager for Region 2 and a Training and Development Coordinator has concluded. Regional Advocate Manager for Region 2 is Diane Atcha and the Training and Development Coordinator is Alonzo Riggins. The new training schedule for licensed community providers is now available on OHR's website.

Next SHRC meeting is March 7, 2024 in Staunton, VA.

Additional Funding and Waiver Slots – Last month, Governor Glen Younkin announced an additional \$300 million over the biennium to fund enough priority one waiver slots for every Virginia with a developmental disability on the waitlist. There are currently over 3,400 Virginians on the priority one waiting list for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Developmental Disability Waiver slots, meaning these individuals urgently need the services and supports offered by the waiver in a year or less.

OLD BUSINESS

- Provider Requests
 - Provider Review Request: Heart Havens – Restrictions to Dignity/Freedoms of Everyday life (reviewed by subcommittee October 26, 2023). A motion to approve the request with the caveat of being reviewed quarterly was made by Mark Smallcombe, seconded by Pamela Jones and approved by all.
 - Provider Review Request: Hanover Community Service Board – Next Friend (reviewed by subcommittee December 7, 2023). A motion to approve the request was made by Pamela Jones, seconded by Mark Smallcombe and approved by all.
 - Provider Review Request: Virginia Treatment Center for Children – Restrictions to Dignity/Freedoms of Everyday life. The provider submitted the request with the addition of criteria for removal as recommended by the committee. No vote needed as the individual has been discharged from the program at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fact Finding Hearing – Petitioner vs. Heart to Heart Mental Health Service
 - Ms. Maria Ward and Ms. Rachelle Lawson presented for the Petitioner.
 - Ms. Shaketa Conway and Ms. Patricia Tucker presented for Heart to Heart Mental Health Service.
 - Ms. Ward requested an open hearing.
 - Ms. Ward presented her opening statement
 - Heart to Heart declined the opportunity to present an opening statement.
 - Ms. Ward presented her testimony along with witness testimony by Ms. Lawson.

- The committee submitted questions to the presenter and witnesses.
- Ms. Conway presented testimony for Heart to Heart.
- The committee submitted questions to the presenter.
- Ms. Ward gave her closing statements.
- Heart to Heart declined the opportunity to present closing statements.

CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION

- At 11:44 am, Danielle Johnson made a motion to go into executive closed session to review the information presented. This motion was seconded by Pamela Jones and approved by all.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- At 12:27 am, Pamela Jones made a motion to come out of closed session, this was seconded by Mark Smallcombe and approved by all.

NEXT MEETING

March 28, 2024

MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Danielle Johnson at 12:29 pm. This motion was seconded by Pamela Jones and approved by all.

Please note: No confidential information shall be included in the minutes, and all steps should be taken to maintain individuals' privacy.

This template has been updated to the new regulations effective 11/1/18.