

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Will Childers, Chairperson  
Hardy  
John Shepherd, Vice-Chairperson  
Charlottesville  
Betty Crance  
Fincastle  
Renee F. Valdez  
Alexandria



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental  
Services

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NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

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State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024

DBHDS

Region 2

Loudoun County CSB

21641 Ridgetop Circle

Ridgetop Conference Room

Sterling, VA 20166

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cdc9d039-d805-43da-9b8d-0be3f5b80887@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 288 803 314 974

Passcode: zwdfEg

Convene

9:00 a.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, Chair; John Shepherd, Vice Chair, Renee Valdez, Betty Crance, Christopher Olivo

SHRC Members Attending Virtually

SHRC Members Absent

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director  
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights  
Diana Atcha, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 2  
Rachel Saunders, Human Rights Advocate, Region 2  
Nadya Said, Human Rights Advocate, Region 2

**Staff Attending Virtually** Miracle Reed-Thompson, Human Rights Advocate, Region 5  
Cheryl Young, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4  
Alonzo Riggins, Training & Development Coordinator, OHR  
Brandon Charles, Facility Operations Manager, OHR  
Andrea Milhouse, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 4  
Jennifer Kovack, Associate Director for Community Operations, OHR  
Mykala Sauls, Human Rights Advocate, Facility, OHR  
Richard Wright, Forensic Mental Health Consultant/Forensic Review Panel Liaison, DBHDS

**Others Attending in Person** Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the SHRC  
Carlinda Kleck, Compliance Senior Manager, Loudoun County CSB

**Others Attending Virtually** Laura Totty, Executive Director, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (HAMHDS)  
Audrey Burges, Deputy County Attorney, HAMHDS  
Yvonne Russell, Quality Assurance Manager, HAMHDS  
Anna Jones, Quality Assurance Specialist, HAMHDS  
Virginia Pharis, Data and Incident Review Unit Manager, disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)  
Kelsey Fastabend, Social Work Intern, dLCV  
Owen Priest, Social Work Intern, dLCV  
Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG)  
Elizabeth Donnelly, Healthcare Compliance, OSIG  
Rebecca Herbig, Director of Litigation, dLCV

**Call to Order** At 9:06, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the September 26, 2024, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda** At 9:11, the committee considered the agenda. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Betty Crance 2<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda was approved, unanimously.

**Review of Draft Minutes** At 9:12, the SHRC reviewed the draft minutes of the August 15, 2024, meeting. John Shepherd asked for clarify if the person who initiated the appeal should have their name (versus just initials) mentioned in the minutes. It was determined that this is OK because the appeal was heard in open session. Betty Crance motioned. John Shepherd 2<sup>nd</sup> for approval. The draft minutes was approved, unanimously.

**Welcome and Overview:**

At 9:13, Carlinda Kleck from Loudoun County Community Service Board (CSB), welcomed the committee to Loudoun County. Carlinda Kleck informed the committee of the CSB operating within the Loudoun County government structure. The CSB handles case management, 8 group homes and supervised living. The CSB just started up a new program where a clinician will accompany deputies on responses to behavioral health crisis calls.

Taneika Goldman informed the committee that on Monday, September 23, 2024, a notice was sent out to all providers regarding an open public comment period, closing October 21, 2024, for review of revised draft of proposed DRAFT noncontroversial streamlining, clarifying, and regulatory reduction amendments the Human Rights Regulations.

**Public Comment:**

At 9:22, Will Childers announced the public comment period. Cynthia Lee, Member of the Public, gave a public comment.

**LHRC Business:**

At 9:31, The SHRC considered LHRC business.

**LHRC Membership:**

Brandon Charles, Facility Operations Manager, presented the Tri-City LHRC membership. Andrea Milhouse, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 4, presented the Central Region LHRC resignation and the Metropolitan LHRC membership.

Betty Crance made a motion to approve the appointment as well as to accept the resignation and reappointment for membership. Christopher Olivo 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion passed.

Facilities

*Tri-City LHRC*

Dominique Watson – Appointment

Region 4

*Central Region LHRC*

Walter Small - Resignation

*Metropolitan LHRC*

Nikivias Goode – Reappointment

**BREAK**

At 9:38, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Appeal:  
Metropolitan  
LHRC Findings:**

At 9:51, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Metropolitan LHRC in the matter of RCJ v Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (HAMHDS). A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding. Will Childers explained how the appeal process will commence. There were two appeals, heard in open session.

Cheryl Young, Human Rights Advocate, presented virtually on the behalf of RCJ, who initiated the appeal of the LHRC findings. Audrey Burges, Deputy County Attorney, presented virtually on behalf of HAMHDS. Statements were heard from both parties regarding both appeals. Will Childers informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

At 10:19, upon a motion by John Shepherd, and Renee Valdez 2<sup>nd</sup>, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) (8) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, discussion of their medical records, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 10:44, upon a motion by John Shepherd and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Valdez, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

**Presentation:  
Forensics**

At 10:48, Richard Wright provided an overview of the Multisystemic Collaboration of Forensics. He spoke about the major changes within forensics, including the legal and clinical practice within the public policy. He gave understanding to the competency to stand trial (here and now) and the plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI); mental status at the time of the offense. He stated the Human Rights Regulations and the NGRI Manual should be read together to give full force and effect to both.

*BREAK*

At 11:42, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Presentation:  
Extraordinary  
Barriers List**

At 12:03, Virginia Pharis provided an overview of data regarding the current individuals residing at State-Operated Psychiatric Hospitals within DBHDS, who have been "Ready for Discharge" for at least 7 days. She provided information about common barriers to discharge and identified and discussed trends in data from previous years.

**Rights &  
Resources:**

At 12:32, Alonzo Riggins gave brief updates to training sessions and informed the committee that the OHR webpage will soon include dignity of risk and supported decision-making resources for individuals and licensed providers.

**Presentation:  
SHRC Annual  
Report**

At 12:45, Taneika Goldman discussed her and Will Childers's presentation of the 2023 SHRC Annual Report of Activities to the DBHDS State Board on September 25, 2024. The report will be published to the Office of Human Rights webpage.

**Subcommittees:** At 12:53, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

Policy Subcommittees The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Officer Subcommittee The Officer Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Membership Subcommittee Will Childers and Taneika Goldman led discussion about the continued need of seeking additional members of the SHRC. A couple of potential members were identified that they will reach out to see if they would like to apply.

**Workplan Discussion:** At 1:25, the SHRC discussed hearing from the DBHDS Facility Services Division at the December meeting, regarding their perspective and response to information shared by dLCV related to the Extraordinary Barriers List.

**Other** At 1:26, Taneika Goldman spoke about upcoming appeals to possibly be heard by the SHRC. The next meeting will have the Facility Reports and discussion of the SHRC meeting calendar for the upcoming year. She informed the committee of the next meeting being near Lynchburg with plans for a provider tour.

**Adjournment** At 1:29, the September 26, 2024, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting**  
October 31, 2024  
Lynchburg