

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

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Taneika Goldman
State Human Rights Director
Taneika.Goldman@dbhds.virginia.gov

Office of Human Rights
1220 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

P.O. Box 1797
Richmond, VA 23218
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, October 31, 2024

DBHDS

Region 1

HumanKind

1903 Humankind Way - Main

1891 Webster Chapel

Lynchburg, VA 24503

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/6730bcdc-cf56-467e-b717-6ea6eddb4222@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 281 175 051 55

Passcode: Cpyxyc

Convene

9:00 a.m.

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

SHRC Members Attending Virtually

SHRC Members Absent Renee Valdez

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights
Alonzo Riggins, Training & Development Coordinator, OHR
Andrea Milhouse, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 4
Lequetta Hayes, Human Rights Advocate, Region 1
Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Jennifer Kovack, Associate Director for Community Operations, OHR

Staff Attending Virtually

Hollie Carlise, Human Rights Advocate, Region 3
Heather Perry, Human Rights Advocate, Region 3
Brandon Charles, Facility Operations Manager, OHR
Latoya Wilborne, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 5
Mandy Crowder, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 3
Cassie Purtlebaugh, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 1
ArTea Ambrose, Human Rights Advocate, Region 1
Ruth Anne Walker, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs; State Board Liaison, DBHDS
Susan Puglisi, Regulatory Specialist, DBHDS

Others Attending in Person

Emily Stilwell, Sr. Quality Assurance Manager, HumanKind
Judy Hedrick, LCSW, HPOC, Client Rights and Privacy Officer, Horizon Behavioral Health
Debbie Rosser, Regional Manager, enCircle
Tommy Peade, MA, OMHP-A, Quality and Risk Manager, Centra Health
Brian Silsbee, Regional Coordinator, Wall Residences, LLC

Others Attending Virtually

Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the SHRC
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
Stacey Atkins, Healthcare Compliance, Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG)
Julie Delk, Director of Residential Services, Barry Robinson Institute
Brandon Murrer (shown as Marcus Cuffee), Assistant Director of Risk Management, Harbor Point Behavioral Health
Melanie J. Draughn, Social Worker and Risk Manager, Holiday House
Dana Gillentine, Sr. Director of Risk Management, Kempsville Behavioral Health
Chardon Rich, Director of Risk Management and Performance Improvement, Newport News Behavioral Health
Heather Overstreet, State Clinical Director, Good Neighbor Homes, LLC

Call to Order

At 9:04, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the October 31, 2024, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

At 9:07, the committee considered the agenda. Betty Crance motioned for approval. John Shepherd 2nd. The agenda was approved, unanimously.

Review of Draft Minutes At 9:08, the committee considered the agenda. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Betty Crance 2nd. The draft minutes was approved, unanimously.

Welcome and Overview: At 9:09, Emily Stillwell, Sr. Quality Assurance Manager for Adult Services, at HumanKind welcomed the committee to the campus. HumanKind has been active for one-hundred and twenty years. Their programs range from foster care, adult services and early head start within the school systems. In 2018, HumanKind started changing programs to integrated services with 50-60 sponsored homes across the state. Those homes range from areas of Roanoke, Danville to Virginia Beach, just to name a few. HumanKind is sitting on 300 acres of land.

Tour Debrief: At 9:16, the SHRC discussed how the tour of the Bridges Treatment Center went on October 30, 2024. The SHRC showed great appreciation to the host for accommodating the SHRC at the facility. Betty Crance spoke on the fact that the children facility only had a total of 23 people including girls and boys, age range from 6-16. Bridges Treatment Center will be adding an outpatient site for children. It was great to hear about the longevity of the staff members along with the interactions between staff and children. Overall, the facility had friendly environment that geared to the culture of the place. A point was made to express the role of the SHRC committee to the staff.

Notifications: At 9:22, Taneika Goldman informed the committee about the Facilities Services Team reviewing of the Extraordinary Barriers List provided by the disAbility Law Center of Virginia. They are expected to attend the December meeting to present their portion. Delisa Turner informed the committee of the increase of the per diem rates for travel effective October 1, 2024. Taneika Goldman gave an update on OHR Facilities Director, Mary Clair O’Hara. John Shepherd made a motioned to extend the due date of the SHRC appeal findings for the two RCJ vs. HAMHDS appeals heard during the September meeting. Christopher Olivo 2nd. Motion passed.

Public Comment: At 9:30, Will Childers announced the public comment period. There was no public comment.

SHRC Calendar Review: At 9:31, the committee worked through the new meeting schedule for 2025.

BREAK At 9:49, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Appeal: Metropolitan LHRC Findings: At 10:02, 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. The appeal was heard in open session.

Andrea Milhouse, Human Rights Manager - Region 4, 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 10:32, upon a motion by John Shepherd, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, 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 10:53, upon a motion by John Shepherd and 2nd by Christopher Olivo, 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.

John Shepherd made a motion to uphold the findings of the LHRC and determined that HAMHDS' action plan in response to the LHRCs recommendations was adequate. Betty Crance 2nd. Motion passed.

BREAK

At 10:55, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Overview:
Regulatory
Revision Process:**

At 11:01, Ruth Anne Walker and Susan Puglisi presented the committee with information regarding the Regulatory Revision Process followed by Tanieka Golman giving insight of High-Level Review of HRR Draft. During this time, Christopher Olivo was presented with a plaque for his role on the State Board. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

**Variance
Updates:**

At 11:30, Latoya Wilborne facilitated the segway of the 10 active variance updates. Julie Delk presented the yearly variance update for Barry Robinson. Brandon Murrer presented the yearly variance update for Harbor Point Behavioral Health. Melanie Draughn presented the yearly variance update for Holiday House. Latoya Wilborne, on behalf of Dana Gillentine, presented the yearly variance update for Kempsville Behavioral Health. Chardon Rich presented the yearly variance update for Newport News Behavioral Health.

LHRC Business:

At 11:50, The SHRC considered LHRC business.

LHRC Membership: Mandy Crowder, Human Rights Advocate Manager, Region 3, presented the Roanoke-Catawba LHRC membership.

John Shepherd made a motion to approve the appointment membership. Christopher Olivo 2nd. Motion passed.

Region 3
Roanoke-Catawba LHRC
Carl Miller – Appointment

Alonzo Riggins asked the committee to volunteer to do the welcome and overview during the LHRC orientation for the upcoming 2025 calendar year.

BREAK At 11:56, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Provider Roundtable: At 12:09, the SHRC held a Regional Community Provider Roundtable session with representatives of various providers in the Region 1 area; (HumanKind, Horizon Behavioral Health, enCircle, Centra Health, Cabaniss Consultants, LLC, Wall Residence, LLC, Good Neighbor Homes, LLC and Harmony Day Support). Will Childers facilitated the segway for the providers in attendance to share about themselves and their organizations, specifically about the services they offer, one initiative they are most proud of and if applicable, a challenge they believe the SHRC may be aware of and/or can assist with. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

BREAK At 12:48, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Facility Operations: At 1:02, the committee received updates on OHR Facility Operations.

Brandon Charles gave a brief overview update about the Facility Operations Team.

VBCR Report At 1:26, Brandon Charles, presented the advocate’s report on human rights complaints, seclusion and restraint for Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation for the month of August 2024.

Violation Letters At 1:30, Brandon Charles, presented the summary of violation letters issued to DBHDS-operated hospitals and centers for the year: October 1, 2023 – October 1, 2024.

Will Childers asked about any liaison reporting and informed the committee that he will be attending an upcoming LHRC meeting of Roanoke-Catawba LHRC.

Workplan Discussion: At 1:38, John Shepherd proposed a conversation of possible changes to the SHRC Appeal report format. He suggested that the addition of an executive summary be considered, and he recommended that the basis of the LHRCS findings be clearly stated. Taneika Goldman and Jennifer Kovack informed the committee that a team has been assembled to improve the formatting with input from IT. They will include John Shepherd and Betty Crance on upcoming meetings with the team.

Other At 2:04, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of the next meeting being at Central Office with an invite sent to the Commissioner to attend.

Adjournment At 2:11, the October 31, 2024, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
December 12, 2024
Central Office