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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DARYL WASHINGTON, LCSW, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026

9:00AM

disAbility Law Center of Virginia

Region 4

1512 Willow Lawn Dr

Richmond, VA 23230

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/ab9bb5b0-105e-40ca-9347-66ea1aba4baf@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 246 418 733 469 467

Passcode: ZA2E94f

Convene

9:00 a.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, **Chair**, Christopher Olivo, Kimberly Hunt, Bruce Ellsworth, Betsy Lang

SHRC Members Attending Virtually Renee Valdez

SHRC Members Absent Betty Crance, **Vice Chair**, John Shepherd

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights (OHR)
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR
Patricia Brown, SUD Quality Manager, DBHDS

Staff Attending Virtually Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Rights Manager, Facility Operations
Cassie Purtlebaugh, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 1
Kelly Parker-Covington, Clinical Director, VCBR, DBHDS
Brenda Blanchard Crowder, Counselor II Supervisor – Trainer, VCBR, DBHDS
Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 4

Others Attending in Person Virginia Pharis, FANS Unit Manager, dLCV
Colleen Miller, Executive Director, dLCV

Others Attending Virtually Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the Inspector General (OSIG)
Alex Slott, Healthcare Compliance Specialist, OSIG

Call to Order At 9:05, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the May 21, 2026, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.

Approval of Agenda At 9:07, the committee considered the agenda. Changes were made to the agenda: the SHRC interview will be rescheduled, and Taneika Goldman has a few notifications to present to the committee. Christopher Olivo motioned for approval. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. The agenda was approved as final with the aforementioned changes, unanimously.

Review of Draft Minutes At 9:08, the committee considered the draft minutes from the April 9, 2026, meeting. Renee Valdez motioned for approval. Bruce Ellsworth 2nd. The draft minutes were approved, unanimously.

Welcome and Overview: At 9:10, Virginia Pharis, FANS Unit Manager, welcomed and thanked the committee for allowing dLCV to host the meeting. dLCV's mission is to advance independence, choice and self-determination; protect legal, human and civil rights; and eliminate abuse, neglect and discrimination of people with disabilities. Virginia Pharis spoke on the history of protection and advocacy, the need for dLCV and dLCV services: investigation, educations and advocacy for systemic change and their goals. She gave insight into how dLCV interacts/collaborates with DBHDS, and specifically the OHR.

Public Comment: At 9:30, Taneika Goldman acknowledged no one was present to provide public comment.

Virginia Pharis finished up the Welcome and Overview.

At 9:37, Taneika Goldman read a public comment submitted via email at 6:35 a.m. on 5/21/26 from Paige Linkins.

VCBR Exemption Notice: At 9:40, Taneika Goldman acknowledged notification from Commissioner Washington dated April 29, 2026, about exemptions to the Human Rights Regulations (HRR) he granted to VCBR. There were no changes requested since the last review/approval in May 2025. Current approval will expire April 30, 2027.

Request to Extend Timeframe: At 9:43, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of a request to extend the timeframe for SHRC Appeal submission to May 15, 2026, in the matter of D.W. v RBHA. Mrs. Goldman noted that the information had been submitted by May 15th. Bruce Ellsworth motioned for approval. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. The extension requests were approved, unanimously.

Presentation: At 9:45, Patricia Brown presented an Overview of the Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports (ARWS). She explained the recent re-organization of staff and emphasized ARWS' primary goal to ensure Virginians have access to a comprehensive and effective system of prevention, treatment, and addiction recovery services.

BREAK At 10:43, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Tour: At 10:52, the committee walked to The Faison Center for a tour with Matt Osborn, VP of Adult & Residential Services.

Tour Debrief: At 12:05, the committee discussed the tour. The Faison Center has been pioneering possibilities for individuals with autism and their families since 1999. The committee enjoyed the campus as a whole and appreciated the opportunity to visit with a tenant at his apartment. The committee expressed how impressive it was to hear residents state that they enjoy "everything". They also appreciated the facility being "pro-choice", allowing residents to do whatever they want without any barriers or restrictions and how intentional it was to not have disability specific spaces, that may present barriers for individuals who are ready to transition to other living spaces in the community

Complaint Resolution Timeline: At 12:15, Brandon Charles reviewed the OHR internal Protocol 409: Request for Extension of Timeframe by the SHRC and draft templates of what the advocate will use to present these requests to the SHRC. Mr. Charles acknowledged that he and Cassie Purtlebaugh would work through the feedback provided with the SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup Subcommittee.
Extension Process Update

Presentation: At 12:30, Brenda Blanchard presented an Overview of VCBR Discharge Barriers and Recidivism.

BREAK At 1:05, Will Childers called for a brief break.

LHRC Liaison Reporting: At 1:10, the SHRC considered LHRC liaison reporting. Will Childers and Betsy Lang stated that they attended an LHRC meeting in Region 1 and Region 5.

LHRC Business: Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 4, presented the Metropolitan LHRC appointment recommendation. Taneika Goldman presented the Prince William County LHRC appointment recommendations and resignation. Betsy Lang made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointment for LHRC memberships. Bruce Ellsworth 2nd. Motion passed.

Region 2

Prince William County LHRC

Doris Benazea – Appointment

Sherry Pritchert – Reappointment

Erica Jackson – Resignation

Region 4

Metropolitan LHRC

Maria Nojaim – Appointment

Colleen Miller, Executive Director, dLCV introduced herself to the committee and thanked them for allowing dLCV to host.

Subcommittees: At 1:17, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

Max Appeal Subcommittee Taneika Goldman highlighted for the committee a copy of the consolidated recommendations and request letter presented to Jason Wilson, Facility Director, at VCBR regarding 11 Max Appeals reviewed by the subcommittee in April 2026.

Officer Nominating Subcommittee The Officer Nominating Subcommittee had nothing to report, noting that John Shephed and Renne Valdez were voted as Chair and Vice Chair respectively at the April 9 meeting.

Membership Subcommittee Will Childers informed the committee that the SHRC interview previously planned for today will be rescheduled during the August meeting.

SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup The SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Community of
Practice Re: HRR
for Children &
Youth
Subcommittee

The Community of Practice Re: HRR for Children & Youth Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Policy
Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Other:

Taneika Goldman informed the committee that the SHRC photoshoot will be rescheduled. She gave updated information regarding the new OHR webpage design; the filling of 3 Advocate vacancies in Regions 4 and 5 and at NVMHI; a status update of the design and build of a new incident management system to replace CHRIS; and that the Draft-HRR NOIRA was approved with the next step being publication for a 30-day public comment period to begin on 6/1/2026.

Adjournment

At 1:29, the May 21, 2026, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
June 25, 2026
Catawba Hospital