

**Southwest Regional Human Rights Committee
Minutes
December 10, 2008
Highlands Community Services, Abingdon, VA
2:00-4:30 p.m.**

The Southwest Regional Human Rights Committee met on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at Highlands Community Services, Abingdon Virginia.

Committee Members Present: Elvera McLees,
Margaret Schenck
Tracy Mullins
Charles Stapleton

Committee Members Absent: None

Others Present: Randy Johnsey, State Human Rights Committee Member
Sid Rhoton, Mountain Connections Inc.
Beth Young, Highlands Community Services
Lorie Horton, Highlands Community Services
Wendy Umbarger, Pressley Ridge
Rebecca Scott, Dickenson County Behavioral Health
Nan Neese, DMHMRSAS Regional Advocate
Sharon Taylor, Frontier Health-PD1
Sharon O'Keefe-Hicks, Creative Family Solutions
Christina Dye, Family Preservation Services
Emme Collins, Visitor
Glenda Pollard, VA Baptist Children's Home
Jewel Haynes, Cross Roads Point
Teresa Vanover, Cross Roads Point
Kim Smith, Rachel's Haven
Shirley Beverly, Rachel's Haven
Stephanie Poe, Clearview Center
Jeffrey Fox, Highlands Community Services

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. McLees welcomed the Committee and Affiliates. Introductions were made.

II. Call to Order

The Chair, Dr. McLees called the meeting to order.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of October 15, 2008 were approved as presented.

IV. Advocate's Report:

Ms. Neese provided the Committee with the following updates:

- **State Budget Cuts-** In response to the recent budget cuts the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse (DMHMRSAS) will have a decrease of 30 positions. This may result in role changes and expansion of the regions for the Human Rights Advocates. Ms. Neese will continue to update the Committee on any changes.
- **Human Rights Reporting Form** – Ms. Neese distributed a proposed reporting form for comment.

Motion was made by Ms. Schenck and seconded by Ms. Mullins to accept the Advocate's report as presented. Motion carried.

V. **Receipt of Notice of New Locations or Services**

- Christina Dye, requested the Committee's approval to extend Family Preservation's affiliation to include providing Therapeutic Day Treatment at the following schools: Marion Intermediate, Gate City Middle, Jonesville Middle, Powell Valley Middle, Coeburn Middle, and LF Addington Middle. Motion was made by Ms. Schenck and second by Ms. Mullins to extend the affiliation to include the above locations. Motion carried.
- Lorie Horton, requested the Committee's approval to extend Highlands Community Services' affiliation to include providing Therapeutic Day Treatment at the following schools: Watauga Elementary and Washington & Lee Elementary. Motion was made by Ms. Mullins and second by Mr. Stapleton to extend the affiliation to include the above locations. Motion carried.

VI. **Clarification of Committee Member Role**

Ms. Neese reported to the Committee that Dr. McLees will be providing services to consumers who also receive services through Highlands Community Services. The Committee did not perceive this as a potential conflict of interest and in response directed Ms. Neese to draft a letter to the State Human Rights Committee, requesting confirmation of their opinion.

VII. **Annual Human Rights Report**

The following Affiliates submitted their annual reports for calendar year 2007:

- **Cross Roads Point** – Jewel Haynes reviewed the report with the Committee. Motion was made by Ms. Schenck and second by Ms. Mullins to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.
- **Frontier Health-PD1** – Sharon Taylor reviewed the report with the Committee. Motion was made by Ms. Schenck and second by Mr. Stapleton to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.
- **Highlands Community Services** – Lorie Horton reviewed the report with the Committee. Motion was made by Ms. Schenck and second by Ms. Mullins to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.
- **Cumberland Mountain Community Services** – The report was deferred to the next meeting.

VIII. **Pressley Ridge, In-Home Services-Update-**Wendy Umbarger reported that as required by DMHMRSAS Licensing, Pressley Ridge is in the process of hiring a licensed provider.

As the February meeting is planned to be a Cumberland Mountain Community Services, the Committee instructed Ms. Umbarger that her next update by may be given in writing.

IX. Review of Behavioral Plan-VA Baptist Children's Home

Motion was made by Ms. Mullins and seconded by Mr. Stapleton that the Southwest Regional Human Right Committee go into closed session pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711.A.(4) and (15) for the purpose of protecting the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of medical and mental records, namely to conduct a review of a behavioral plan. Motion carried.

Glenda Pollard presented the plan to the Committee for review. Following the review of the plan a motion was made by Ms. Mullins and seconded by Mr. Stapleton that the Southwest Virginia Regional Human Rights Committee reconvene into public session. Motion carried.

Ms. Mullins moved and Mr. Stapleton seconded that each member certify that to the best of their knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements were heard, discussed, or considered. Motion carried. Dr. McLees, addressed each member, who in turn, so certified.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the plan presented by Ms. Pollard was not restrictive and therefore did not require further review.

X. Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009 at Cumberland Mountain Community Services for the purpose of reviewing behavioral plans. As the majority of the meeting will be in executive session other affiliates are excused from attending.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. McLees adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lorie Horton,
Staff Liaison

Dr. Elvera McLees
Committee Chairperson