

MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER
March 28, 2007

PRESENT: Denice Olinger, Vice-Chairperson
Wilma Brown
Charlotte Barkley
Betty Meredith
Joyce Bunn
Sandy Yates
Loretta Evans
BJ McKnight, Human Rights Advocate
Karen Poe, Facility Liaison

ABSENT: Dr. Ohlen Wilson
Donald Lyons
Dr. Rafael Semidei, Psychiatrist
Dr. Mark Witherspoon, Psychology Director

ATTENDING A PORTION OF THE MEETING:
Beverly Webb, Human Resource Manager
Dale Woods, Ed.D., Facility Director
Larry Smith, Program Support Manager

The Local Human Rights Committee for Southwestern Virginia Training Center met on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room #2. In the absence of the Chairperson, Denice Olinger, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and presided.

On a motion by Betty Meredith, and a second by Joyce Bunn, the minutes from the February 28, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved.

Beverly Webb, SWVTC Human Resource Manager, answered questions regarding employee references; specifically, what kind of reference is given when an employee is terminated for abuse, and are these employees able to be hired at another human services agency. Ms. Webb reported that very little information can be given unless the employee in question gives permission. Only dates are given unless the employee gives written permission for release of additional information. Criminal background checks are done on all of our employees. We can answer the question of whether or not we would rehire the individual. The group expressed concern over the fact that these employees can be hired at another human services agency.

A motion was made by Charlotte Barkley and seconded by Betty Meredith that the Local Human Rights Committee go into Closed Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711.A (4) and (15) for the purpose of hearing a follow-up report from

Larry Smith, Chief of Program Support Services, on two abuse/neglect investigations and for the purpose of reviewing the restrictive behavior plans and/or medication reviews of residents. Such review would necessarily involve discussion and consideration of mental and medical records which are confidential and exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.

Following the presentation of the plans, a motion was made by Betty Meredith and seconded by Joyce Bunn that the LHRC convene in Open Session. The motion carried.

Upon reconvening in Open Session, the Local Human Rights Committee unanimously certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Closed Session, were discussed in the Closed Session.

On a motion made by Betty Meredith and a second by Joyce Bunn, the LHRC unanimously approved as presented individual programs presented by first names and register numbers for residents of Connections, New Horizon, and Pathways Cottages. No behavior plan updates were requested. The LHRC requested another follow-up report from Larry Smith, Chief of Program support Services, on the two abuse/neglect cases.

Another motion was made by Charlotte Barkley, seconded by Joyce Bunn, and unanimously carried by the members present, requesting that BJ McKnight notify the State Human Rights Director of their concern about a human resources issue regarding one of the abuse cases.

The next order of business was the Advocate's Report. BJ reported that Denice Olinger and Sandy Yates will be leaving the committee at the end of June, since their terms of appointment will be ending. She asked for recommendations from the committee to fill these vacancies in the professional area of expertise. She announced that Wilma Brown will attend the State Board Volunteer Luncheon in Staunton on April 3, representing the LHRC. BJ handed out copies of the SHRC Regulations with changes and said to let her know if anyone has questions. Once approved by the State Board, the regulations will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Budget, then forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval. Ms. McKnight reviewed her annual report with the group.

The next meeting of the LHRC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

A motion was made by Charlotte Barkley and seconded by Joyce Bunn that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.