

MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER
April 25, 2007

PRESENT: Donald Lyons, Chairperson
Wilma Brown
Charlotte Barkley
Betty Meredith
Joyce Bunn
Sandy Yates
Loretta Evans
Dr. Ohlen Wilson
BJ McKnight, Human Rights Advocate
Karen Poe, Facility Liaison

ABSENT: Dr. Rafael Semidei, Psychiatrist
Dr. Mark Witherspoon, Psychology Director
Denice Olinger

The Local Human Rights Committee for Southwestern Virginia Training Center met on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room #2. Chairperson, Donald Lyons, called the meeting to order and presided. *(Prior to the opening of the meeting, volunteer recognition certificates were presented to the LHRC members by Dale Woods, Ed.D., Director, and a group picture was taken.)*

On a motion by Betty Meredith, and a second by Charlotte Barkley, the minutes from the March 28, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved.

Wilma Brown gave a report of her attendance at the MHMRSAS State Board Volunteer Luncheon and awards ceremony held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center in Staunton, VA. Key speaker was Governor Tim Kaine's wife and Virginia's First Lady, Anne Holton. Wilma reported that the event was well attended and encouraged anyone who has the opportunity in the future to attend. She brought back a statuette award which she accepted in behalf of the LHRC. Mr. Lyons expressed appreciation to Wilma for representing the committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Wilson and seconded by Joyce Bunn 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 Larry Smith's report and the presentation of restrictive behavior plans/medication reviews, a motion was made by Loretta Evans 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 Sandy Yates, 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 case which is going forth through the court system.

BJ gave a report on her discussion with the State Human Rights Director, as requested by the LHRC last month, of a human resources issue regarding one of the abuse cases. Two suggested options were offered: 1) Contact your Delegate as a private citizen and express your concern; 2) As a group, ask the State Committee to review the issue. The group will consider their options and discuss this again next month.

BJ gave the Advocate's report summarizing the complaints and allegations she has reviewed during the last quarter.

Sandy Yates announced that she has taken a new job as Director of Social Services at a Nursing Home in Sparta, NC, and today will be her last day of attendance at the LHRC meetings.

The next meeting of the LHRC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2007.

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