

MINUTES  
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER  
October 25, 2006

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

ABSENT: Denice Olinger  
Joyce Bunn  
Betty Meredith  
Dr. Rafael Semidei, Psychiatrist  
Dr. Mark Witherspoon, Psychology Director

The Local Human Rights Committee for Southwestern Virginia Training Center met on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. in the IHP Review Room. Chairperson, Donald Lyons, called the meeting to order and presided.

On a motion by Charlotte Barkley, and a second by Dr. Wilson, the minutes from the September 27, 2006, meeting were unanimously approved.

John Jones, ADA, Acting Director, presented the rationale for requesting a one-year renewal of the Southwestern Virginia Training Center 12 VAC 35-115-10 Variance. He stated that during the past year, no complaints from residents, families, or others, as a result of the variance, have been received. Should the variance not be renewed, we would face the issues of excessive burden and redundant notification and documentation for each disclosure. Following discussion, Dr. Ohlen Wilson made the motion that the LHRC support the request for the variance renewal and that it be forwarded to the State Human Rights Committee. The motion was duly seconded by Sandy Yates and passed by unanimous vote of the committee members present.

A motion was made by Sandy Yates and seconded by Wilma Brown that the Local Human Rights Committee go into Executive Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711.A(4) and (15) 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.

After review in Executive Session, a motion was made by Loretta Evans and seconded by Charlotte Barkley 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 Executive Session, were discussed in the Executive Session.

On a motion made by Sandy Yates and a second by Loretta Evans, the LHRC unanimously approved as presented individual programs presented by first names and register numbers for residents of Connections, New Horizon, and Pathways Cottages with one follow-up report next month.

Human Rights Advocate, BJ McKnight, gave a report on the activities of her office and the complaints and allegations of abuse which she has investigated.

Other Business:

BJ reported that our Risk Manager has retired. Larry Smith is doing this job until it is filled.

BJ circulated a copy of a letter which VOPA has sent out to families explaining their services.

BJ handed out copies of the Human Writes newsletter.

The public hearing regarding the Regulations went well and the new Regs should be forthcoming soon.

The next meeting of the LHRC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2006. (The November and December LHRC meetings are combined.)

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