

**Southeastern Regional  
Local Human Rights Committee**

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 am

Zoom

**Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rick Dinsmore, Chair  
Mark Douglass, Alternate  
Marilyn Nendza, Member  
Dick Roberts, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Matthew Albright, Vice Chair  
Carolyn Scott, Member  
Sandy Montez-Gerhardt, Member

**OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Reginald Daye – Regional Manager, DBHDS  
April DeLandro- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS  
Latoya Wilborne- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS  
Michael Gause- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Shantel Taylor- James Barry Robinson Institute, LHRC Liaison  
Kerry Kruk – Virginia Beach Department of Human Services  
Melanie Draughn – Holiday House of Portsmouth

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Rick Dinsmore, Chairman, called meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Those in attendance made introductions to include their name and title.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 agenda was motioned to be accepted by Ms. Nendza, seconded by Mr. Roberts, and unanimously approved by the committee members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approval of the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes was motioned to be accepted by Ms. Nendza, seconded by Mr. Dick Roberts, and unanimously approved by the committee members.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**REGIONAL ADVOCATE ANNOUNCEMENT/ ADVOCATE REPORT:**

Mr. Reginald Daye made the following advocate announcements:

- The next meeting will be held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19.
- Human Rights Advocate, April DeLandro, is leaving her current role within the Office of Human Rights Region 5 and is going to work for another state department. Therefore, a new vacancy is posted for a new Human Rights Advocate.
- Human Rights Advocate, Michael Gause, is now the assigned OHR Advocate who will provide technical support to this committee.
- Described changes in the structure within OHR which included the division between Community Advocates and Facility Advocates. The Facilities Regional Manager is providing supervision to Lakel Gurley-Upshaw. Taneika Goldman is now the new State Human Rights Director, following the retirement of Deborah Locahart.
- There is an Associate Director for community services and there is an Associate Director for facility services. The Regional Managers report to their respective Associate Directors. The Associate Directors report to the State Human Rights Director.
- There have been changes in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA training will be conducted by Michael Gause during the July 21, 2021 LHRC meeting where the updates will be discussed. One update is that the LHRC proceedings are to be recorded, which is why the current meeting was being recorded to ensure compliance with the new FOIA updates.
- Meetings are not to be recorded in closed session.
- Reginald Daye explained the changes in the OHR structure do not effect the committee or its current structure.
- Reginald Daye answered Ms. Nendza's question regarding public comments. The LHRC meetings are open to the general public and are open for public comments relative to this committee. The zoom information is posted publicly on the state calendar.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Variance Update

- Holiday House of Portsmouth

Ms. Melanie Draughn presented the quarterly variance update:

- ICF children's residential facility for ages 5-21
- Visitation variance
- Active upon admission
- Visits occur through Zoom due to pandemic, but some visits occur outside when the facility has no active COVID-19 cases
- No complaints or violations for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

- No changes made to the variance and was approved for continuance on 09/10/2020
- James Barry Robinson Center  
Ms. Shantel Taylor presented the quarterly variance update:
  - Telephone and visitation restrictions
  - Program provides for children starting at age 6.
  - At the time of admission, an approved list of contacts is created with the input from the client, clinician and the AR or legal guardian.
  - 0 Complaints of the variance.
  - No changes made to the variance and was approved for continuance on 09/10/2020
- Virginia Beach Department of Human Services-  
Ms. Kerry Kruk presented an overview of its State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) approved variance to the LHRC members.
  - The variance addresses telephone use and visitation.
  - 3 instances of contraband that were provided to staff or discovered during intake for the quarter.
  - 0 instances of contraband obtained from an outside contact on the premises or carried in by an outside visitor.
  - 0 complaints about the variance.
  - Variance is for the Crisis Stabilization Program (The Pathways Center)
  - No changes made to this variance and was approved for continuance on 9/30/2020

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Ms. Nendza and seconded by Mr. Roberts at 9:33 a.m. for the Southeastern Regional LHRC to go into closed session pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711 (A), for the purpose of reviewing confidential information, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session requirements involving a Virginia Beach Department of Human Services Service Recipient's Behavior Support Plan.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The committee reconvened in open session at 9:39 a.m. by unanimous vote on a motion by Ms. Nendza and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Each member certified that, to the best of each of their knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, was discussed in the closed session, namely for the purposes of reviewing the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services Service Recipient's Behavior Support Plan.

**Recommendation: Motion made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Nendza and unanimously approved by the committee members as follows:**

To approve the Behavior Support Plan as presented with a 90-day update to the Southeastern Regional Local Human Rights Committee.

**TRAINING**

None. FOIA updates will be provided during next meeting by Mr. Michael Gause, Office of Human Rights.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Location-Zoom

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Motion made to ADJOURN the meeting by Ms. Nendza, seconded by Mr. Roberts at 9:43 a.m. with the unanimous approval of the committee members.