

**Southeastern Regional
Local Human Rights Committee**

April 21st, 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 21st, 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 20th, 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 1st 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 21st, 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.