

Southeast Alliance Local Human Rights Committee  
300 Medical Dr.  
Hampton, VA 23666  
07/30/2019 at 3:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Candi Rhodes – Vice-chair  
Charles Ponquinette – Member  
Stephanie Nesbitt – Member  
Precious Ethridge – Member

**Members Absent**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Reginald Daye- Regional Advocate, DBHDS- Region 5  
Carlton J. Henderson- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS- Region 5  
Karen Matthews- Compliance and Standards Mgr., Hampton-Newport News CSB (HNN-CSB)  
Carey Chappell- Director Quality Improvement (QI), Newport News Behavioral Health Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rhodes called meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The July 30, 2019 agenda was motioned to be accepted as amended by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Ethridge, and unanimously approved by the committee members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Rhodes called for review and approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting. The approval of the April 16, 2019 minutes was motioned to be accepted by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Ethridge, and unanimously approved by the committee members.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

### **ADVOCATE REPORT/REGIONAL ADVOCATE ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mr. Daye provided the announcements:

- As part of the re-alignment effort, the OHR is planning to request that the SHRC collapse two of the Region 5 six (6) LHRCs.
  - The remaining Region 5 LHRC's will be Southeast Alliance, Williamsburg Regional, Southeastern Virginia Training Center and HPR 5.
  - Interested members who are part of the collapsed LHRCs' (Suffolk Regional & Virginia Beach Area) may fill vacancies on the remaining committees, or serve as alternates.
- Bernadette Lege will be joining the Office of Licensing. Her last day with the Office of Human Rights (OHR) will be Friday, August 9, 2019.
- Providers were encouraged to begin review of their current variances as the renewal process is approaching.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Ethridge, and unanimously approved by the committee members that the SEA - LHRC go into closed session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A), for the purposes of protecting the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, namely for the purpose of reviewing a behavioral plan involving the use of restraints for an individual of Hampton-Newport News CSB.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The committee reconvened in open session by unanimous vote on a motion by Ms. Ethridge and seconded by Ms. Nesbitt. Each member certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, were considered in the closed session, namely to review an individual's restrictive plan.

Recommendation: Motion made by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Ethridge, and unanimously approved by the committee members as follows:

- Approve continuation of the Behavioral Plan for the individual with quarterly updates.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Newport News Behavioral Health Center
  - a. Variance Update

- i. Carey Chappell, Director Quality Improvement (QI), presented an overview of its State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) approved variance to the LHRC members. The quarterly update is a requirement imposed by the SHRC when the variance was approved.
- ii. Telephone and visitation restriction
  1. Both restrictions are active upon admission.
  2. No complaints for the first and second quarter.
  3. The program's variance is up for renewal in October 2020.
- iii. Level System (regarding restrictions on freedoms of everyday life)
  1. There were no complaints for the first and second quarter, and in fact, there was a reduction in aggression seen in both quarters.
  2. Explained that the Level System was written by Sara Williams, Director of Clinical Services.
    - a. The provider desires to change the "Freeze" aspect of the system to avoid unnecessary consequences when appropriate behaviors have been achieved.
  3. Provider was advised by Mr. Daye that the change may have to go before the SHRC for approval, but to provide the OHR and LHRC with a copy for review, first.
  4. Mr. Henderson asked about numerical outcome data.
    - a. Mr. Daye asked that the data be provided and presented at the next meeting.
    - b. Also, that a copy of the Level System be provided and presented to ensure understanding of the system by all members of the committee.
  5. Ms. Nesbitt, Ms. Ethridge, and Ms. Rhodes asked for clarification about the system, specifically the "Freeze" aspect.
    - a. Ms. Chappell advised that Ms. Williams would be better equipped to answer those questions.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Henderson asked that the review and comment of the SEA – LHRC by-laws be tabled until the next meeting as copies were not available for all the members.

2. Mr. Daye explained that the SHRC is preparing to make possible revisions to the by-laws and LHRC comment may be helpful.
3. Nominations for Chair and Vice-chair were discussed.
  - a. Dr. Ponquinette nominated Ms. Rhodes for Chair.
  - b. Ms. Rhodes nominated Ms. Nesbitt for Vice-chair, while Ms. Ethridge was nominated by Dr. Ponquinette.
    - i. Ms. Nesbitt respectfully declined.
  - c. The appointment of officers was motioned by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt, and unanimously approved by the committee.
    - i. The term dates are 7/30/19 – 6/30/19.
    - ii. Nominations, elections for the next term will be held during the 4th quarter meeting (April 2020) for FY year 2020.

### **TRAINING**

Mr. Henderson provided training on FOIA.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Ponquinette, seconded by Ms. Ethridge, with the unanimous approval of the committee members at 4:06 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** October 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM (HNNCSB- 300 Medical Drive; Hampton, VA).