

## HANOVER LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (HLHRC)

Date: June 10, 2019.

### **Members Present:**

X Brianne Jones  
X Pamela Jones  
X Joanna Frank  
X Michael Stevens  
X Gina Koke  
X Kiva Gatewood

### **Members Absent:**

☐ Miranda Valentine-Fife  
☐ James Belleville  
☐ Stephen Crawford

### **Others Present:**

Samantha Fogt, Human Rights Advocate  
Sharae Henderon, Human Rights Regional Advocate

## **I. Welcome/Introductions**

With a quorum present, Hanover LHRC Chairman, Gina Koke at 6:12 pm, called meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and introduction of committee members commenced.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed and approved from March 4, 2019 meeting.

## **III. Public Comments**

N/A

## **IV. Advocates Comments**

Samantha Fogt reviewed a training on human rights regulations as they relate to behavioral treatment plans. CHRIS and regulations trainings are being held throughout the state. Look for emails regarding these training opportunities.

## **V. Old Business**

Impact Services has followed up with recommendations from the committee. Itheil Group has not followed up as of this date.

## **VI. New Business**

The committee heard requests for rights restrictions from Blue Ridge, Good Neighbor and Love 1<sup>st</sup> in closed session (see notes below). A follow up meeting will be scheduled to review the information from each provider and make recommendations.

James Belleville has been unable to attend meetings. Michael Stevens made a motion to have him removed from the committee. This motion was seconded by Joanna Frank and approved by all.

The following nominations were made for officer elections:

Chair: Gina Koke, nominated by Pamm Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joanna Frank, approved by all.

Vice Chair: Joanna Frank, nominated by Gina Koke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kiva Gatewood, approved with one nay.

Secretary: Pamm Jones, nominated by Gina Koke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brianna Jones, approved by all.

Michael Stevens showed an interest in being Vice Chair, It was suggested that he work with the current chair and possibly his in-home staff to learn the process of chairing a committee.

### **VIII. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2019 at Key Support Services, LLC.

### **IX. Closed Session**

(In each of the cases noted below, the presenter requested to be heard in closed session. The committee made a motion to hear the request in closed session, approved and then made a motion to leave closed session at the conclusion of the presentation.)

**REQUEST:** Courtney Campbell with Blue Ridge Sponsored Residential presented a request that a sponsored provider be allowed to download and application to the individual's phone that would restrict his internet usage. This individual has a history of sharing personal information (social security number, address, etc.) with strangers. Due to the safety issues presented, she is asking for approval of the application so that when the individual is accessing the internet, the sponsored provider could provide supervision to ensure safety.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The committee accepted this request with the following recommendations: The individual's plan of supports include outcomes to address improving their understanding of internet safety; the provider is to ensure supervised access when requested by the individual. This restriction must be reviewed regularly by a qualified professional and removed when no longer deemed necessary.

**REQUEST:** Courtney Campbell with Blue Ridge Sponsored Residential presented a request that a sponsored provider be allowed to lock all sharp objects and personal care items. The individual has a history of using sharp object to attempt self-harm as well as ingesting items like shampoo. The provider will give access to the items when needed. This individual is awaiting PBS support and does have a REACH safety plan in place.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The committee accepted this request with the following recommendations: The individual's plan of supports include outcomes to address improving their coping skills and the safe use of household items; the provider is to ensure supervised access when requested by the individual; adhere to the criteria for removal documented by the psychiatrist. These restrictions must be reviewed regularly by a qualified professional and removed when no longer deemed necessary.

**REQUEST:** Crystal Lipford of Good Neighbor Homes and Mother/Guardian presented requests to restrict internet usage, phone usage, access to mail and support with adherence to a prescribed diet. This individual does have a behavior specialist and there is a plan currently in development. The individual has a history of inappropriate or harassing use of the phone and internet. Police have been involved. This individual has disposed of mail that wasn't his and signed up for subscriptions, etc. without his guardian's permission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The committee declined to approve the requested restrictions for access to the phone and internet. Clearer documentation of exactly what actions the provider is to take should be submitted. Regarding restricting access to food, the committee concluded that the provider is to follow the diet as prescribed by the individual's doctor to the best of their ability. Because the individual lives in a group setting, access to food cannot be denied to all in the home. Provider staff do not have the ability to physically remove food from the individual's possession. Clearer documentation of exactly what actions the provider is to take should be submitted. It is suggested that the provider increase staff supervision to reduce the risk of over indulgence by the individual. Regarding the restrictions of guests, the provider has the right to restrict access to guests up to three times in thirty days for up to seven consecutive days before requiring a restriction approval. Please resubmit a completed behavior support plan that includes all restrictions to be reviewed by the LHRC at the next meeting. Please ensure that this plan clearly outlines staff responsibilities for enforcing the requested restrictions.

**REQUEST:** Aletha Davis of Love 1<sup>st</sup>, LLC and Charlotte Bowen, Guardian presented several "house rules" that were deemed unacceptable under the human rights regulations as they were too restrictive or didn't apply to all receiving services in the household. The individual in question has a history of sexually inappropriate

behavior with the internet and cell phone. He has also given out his address to strangers. The provider is requesting limitations/supervision on the phone and internet to ensure safety of the individual. Due to individual's family history, they are also asking to restrict guest access.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The committee declined to approve the requested restrictions for access to the phone and internet. A clear plan of exactly what actions the provider is to take should be submitted. This plan should not include consequences for behavior ie: taking of personal phone by the provider. Regarding the restrictions of guests, the provider has the right to restrict access to guests up to three times in thirty days for up to seven consecutive days before requiring a restriction approval. A clearer assessment of who and why a person(s) should be denied access should be submitted by the provider from a qualified professional. Per HCBS Rights, individuals have the right to visitors at any time. It is also requested that the provider submit their "House Rules" for review at the next LHRC meeting. The provider must ensure that any rules in place are implemented equally among all residents supported.

#### **X. Adjournment**

There would be no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.