

METROPOLITAN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES – APPROVED
October 24, 2024
9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharae Henderson, Chair
Pamela Jones, Secretary
Michelle Whittingham, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kiva Gatewood, Member
Mark Smallacombe, Vice Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

Amaya Henderson, Advocate
Andrea Millhouse, Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

Sharae Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:41 am.
Introductions were made by all present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pamela Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Michelle Whittingham and approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Michelle Whittingham made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pamela Jones and approved by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

2025 meeting dates were given to the committee: March 25, 2025; June 26, 2025; September 25, 2025 and December 25, 2025. A motion was made by Pamela Jones to change the December date to January 22, 2026 due to the holiday. This motion was seconded by Michelle Whittingham and approved by all. Potential sub-committee meeting dates have been scheduled for April 24, 2025 and October 23, 2025 if needed.

OLD BUSINESS

A previous provider who was given approval for a rights restriction was asked to return to the committee to update on the restriction. They were not present to present at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Rebecca Summers with Blue Ridge Residential presented their request for a rights restriction to the Committee. A motion to approve the request was made by Pamela Jones, seconded by Michelle Whittingham, and approved by all.

The committee held a fact-finding hearing Between petitioner versus Foundation for care incorporated. The petitioner's guardian, Adrienne Debrew, agreed to an open hearing. Ms. Debrew presented for the petitioner. Torian Smith and Larry Walker presented for Foundation for Care, Incorporated. After hearing their opening statements, testimony and closing statements. Pamela Jones made a motion to go into closed session. This was seconded by Michelle Whittingham and approved by all. During the closed session, the committee reviewed the information and made recommendations to the human rights advocate. A motion was then made by Pamela Jones to come out of closed session. This was seconded by Michelle Whittingham and approved by all.

The committee held a fact-finding hearing between petitioner versus Hallmark Youth Care. Ms. Martin, the guardian for the petitioner. Presented for the petitioner and chose an open hearing. Sarah Hazelgrove, John Davis and Jennifer Taylor presented or provided witness statements for Hallmark Youth Care. After hearing their opening statements, testimony and closing statements, Pamela Jones made a motion to go into closed session. This was seconded by Michelle Winningham and approved by all. During closed session, the committee reviewed the materials presented, made recommendations to the Advocate and then Pamela Jones made a motion to come out of closed session. This was seconded by Michelle Whittingham and approved by all.

Findings of the committee for both hearings will be submitted to the petitioners and the providers by November 8th, 2024.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date December 19th, 2024.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pamela Jones at 12:17 pm. This motion was seconded by Michelle Whittingham. and approved by all.

Please note: No confidential information shall be included in the minutes, and all steps should be taken to maintain individuals' privacy.

This template has been updated to the new regulations effective 11/1/18.