

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Will Childers, Chairperson
Hardy
John Shepherd, Vice-Chairperson
Charlottesville
Betty Crance
Fincastle
Renee F. Valdez
Alexandria
Christopher Olivo
Yorktown



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services*

*Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797*

NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2025

MVLE

7400 Fullerton Rd. Ste. 110

Springfield, VA 22153

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/59663385-b20c-4ca7-9e53-09df82a7de89@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 286 247 434 431

Passcode: Hk3so7hs

Convene

8:30 a.m.

Taneika Goldman
State Human Rights Director
Taneika.Goldman@dbhds.virginia.gov

Office of Human Rights
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SHRC Members Present Physically John Shepherd, **Vice Chair**, Christopher Olivo, Renee Valdez, Betty Crance

SHRC Members Attending Virtually Will Childers, **Chair**

SHRC Members Absent

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR
Diana Atcha, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 2
Nadya Said, Human Rights Advocate, OHR

Staff Attending Virtually	Jennifer Kovack, Associate Director for Community Operations, OHR Riley Curran, Human Rights Advocate, OHR Brandon Charles, Facility Operations Manager, OHR Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manger, Region 4 Amaya Henderson, Human Rights Advocate, OHR Mykala Sauls, Human Rights Advocate, OHR
Others Attending in Person	Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the SHRC Michelle Lotrecchiano, Sr. Director of Rehabilitation, MVLE Jessica Daniels, Director of Compliance, Mainspring Recovery Khadija Jalloh, Program Director, RightPath Visions, Inc
Others Attending Virtually	Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance, Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) Ariel DeVoy, Public Policy Manager, Virginia Association of Community Services Board (VACSB) George Newsome, MHA, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) Tiffany Adams, Authorized Representative Robert Adams, Authorized Representative Holly Martin, Authorized Representative Sarah Hazelgrove, Risk Manager/Compliance Liaison, Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond Jon Davis, RN, Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond Jennifer Taylor, RN, Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond Molly Huffman, Attorney for Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond Omar Toufaily, Member of the Public Donna McGraw, Director of Compliance and Quality Management, Northern VA Mental Health Institute (NVMHI) Dr. Navid Rashid, Psychiatrist, NVMHI Ronald Cress, COO, NVMHI Heidi Campbell, Member of the Public
Call to Order	At 8:31, John Shepherd, SHRC Vice Chair, called the March 6, 2025, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. He acknowledged facilitating the meeting because the Chair is participating remotely. A call for introductions was made.
Approval of Agenda	At 8:32, the committee considered the agenda. Christopher Olivo motioned for approval. Betty Crance 2 nd . The agenda was approved, unanimously.

- Review of Draft Minutes** At 8:33, the committee considered the draft minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting. Betty Crance motioned for approval. Christopher Olivo 2nd. The draft minutes were approved, unanimously.
- Notification:** At 8:35, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of an exemption to the Human Rights Regulations granted by the DBHDS Commissioner, effective February 13, 2025, for the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VBCR).
- Welcome and Overview:** At 8:36, Michelle Lotrecchiano from MVLE, welcomed the committee to the facility. Michelle Lotrecchiano gave the committee a brief overview of MVLE. MVLE was founded in 1971 by four families with disabilities. Previously known as Mount Vernon Lee Enterprises, MVLE's purpose is to create opportunities for people with disabilities to successfully participate in community life. They offer day programs and employment programs and provide job coaching with direct support professionals. MVLE has about 13 federal contract sites throughout the state of Virginia and Washington, DC.
- The SHRC discussed how the tour of the MVLE went on March 5, 2025. The SHRC showed great appreciation to the host for assisting the SHRC at the facility. Although, the committee was unable to see the individuals within the program but could see the potential and vision of MVLE throughout the tour.
- Other:** At 8:43, Renee Valdez spoke about her attendance during the Regional Quality Council of Northern Virginia (RQC2) and the Office of Human Rights focus group regarding concepts and practices related to the Dignity of Risk. She stated how refreshing it was to see the dynamics of different providers demonstrating care to assist individuals. The big take away was balancing the Dignity of Risk with the Duty of Care. She was able to share her own personal experiences during the focus group to identify the risk along with understanding the adequate reasoning of safety. Taneika Goldman informed the committee that the focus group was held with several service providers and that the OHR will be offering two live web-based training sessions about the concept of Dignity of Risk later in the year. The goal is to be able to offer the training in person, regionally in 2026.
- LHRC Business:** At 8:50, The SHRC considered LHRC business.
- Taneika Goldman presented the Rappahannock-Rapidan and Health Planning 5 LHRC membership recommendations.
- Betty Crance made a motion to approve the appointments for membership. Christopher Olivo 2nd. Motion passed.

Region 1

Rappahannock-Rapidan LHRC
Stephanie Terrell – Appointment

Region 5
Health Planning 5 LHRC
Christy Kieschnick – Appointment

Betty Crance informed the committee that she attended the DD roundtable recently with several other providers. She enlightened the providers about the LHRC and encouraged them that the committee would be interested in hearing from them at any given roundtable session.

SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup: John Shepherd and Betty Crance gave a brief update on their meeting with Jennifer Kovack, Andrea Milhouse, and Mykala Sauls to address SHRC appeal procedures. Both spoke to the fact that these meetings are conducive to the improvements of such a plan. A sample summary was provided to the committee of one of the appeals which the committee indicated helped with the process. This document would be a starting point for the proposed changes.

Public Comment: At 9:01, John Shepherd announced the public comment period. Tiffany Adams gave a comment about the effects of the mental health care in Virginia. She stated that there's room for improvement, organizations are understaffed which cause strain and stress on the workers resulting in the individuals not receiving the best care. It is her hope to find ways for resolutions with the help of all involved.

Policy Subcommittee: The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Other: Delisa Turner informed the committee of the most recent changes regarding travel reimbursement as of Jan 1, 2025.

Appeal: Staunton Area LHRC Findings: At 9:09, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Staunton Area LHRC in the matter of J.A v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA). A call for introductions took place by John Shepherd prior to proceeding. In agreement with the preference of the Authorized Representative, the committee decided to review the appeals in open session.

Tiffany Adams, Authorized Representative, presented virtually on behalf of the child. George Newsome, MHA, Chief Executive Officer, presented virtually on behalf of CCCA. Statements were heard from both parties regarding the appeal of 5 separate complaints. Committee members took turns asking follow-up questions to the parties, and John Shepherd informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

At 10:57, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) (8) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, discussion of their medical records, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 11:32, upon a motion by Betty Crance and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

**Appeal:
Metropolitan
LHRC Findings:**

At 11:34, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Metropolitan LHRC in the matter of A.M. v Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond. A call for introductions took place by John Shepherd prior to proceeding. John Shepherd informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

Holly Martin, Authorized Representative, presented virtually on behalf of the child. Molly Huffman, Attorney, presented virtually on behalf of Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond. In agreement with the preference of the Authorized Representative, the committee decided to review the appeal in closed session.

At 11:40, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) (8) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, discussion of their medical records, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 12:30, upon a motion by Betty Crance and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

Betty Crance motioned to uphold the findings of the Metropolitan LHRC in the matter of AM v Hallmark Youth Care-Richmond. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed.

Betty Crance motioned the following regarding the findings of the Staunton Area LHRC in the matter of JA v CCCA to uphold Finding #1 uphold Finding #2 with a recommendation, overturn Finding #3 with a recommendation, affirm Finding #4 with an additional finding of a violation, and uphold Finding #5 with an additional recommendation. Renee Valdez 2nd.

Provider Roundtable:	At 12:35, the SHRC held a Regional Community Provider Roundtable session with representatives of providers in the Region 2 area: (Mainspring Recovery and RightPath Visions, Inc.). Taneika Goldman facilitated the segway for the providers in attendance to share about themselves and their organizations, specifically about the services they offer, one initiative they are most proud of and if applicable, a challenge they believe the SHRC may be aware of and/or can assist with. A call for introductions took place by John Shepherd prior to proceeding.
BREAK	At 1:02, John Shepherd called for a brief break.
Appeal: Williamsburg Regional LHRC Findings:	<p>At 1:09, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Williamsburg Regional LHRC in the matter of OT v Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI). A call for introductions took place by John Shepherd prior to proceeding. In agreement with the preference of the Individual, the committee decided to review the appeal in open session.</p> <p>Omar Toufaily presented virtually. Donna McGraw, Director of Compliance and Quality Management, presented virtually on behalf of NVMHI. Statements were heard from all parties regarding the appeal and Committee members asked follow-up questions. John Shepherd informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.</p> <p>At 1:36, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (4) (8) and (16), for interviews of prospective candidates for appointment; the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business; discussion of their medical records; and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.</p>
SHRC Interview:	<p>At 2:46, upon a motion by Betty Crance and Renee Valdez 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.</p> <p>Betty Crance motioned to uphold the findings of the Williamsburg Regional LHRC in the matter of OT v NVMHI and recommended Mr. Toufaily's allegation of neglect be investigated in accordance with the human rights complaint resolution process. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed.</p>

Membership Committee: At 2:47, the Committee discussed holding a special call meeting to interview another membership candidate who was unable to participate in the scheduled interview today.

VCBR Report: At 2:48, the committee acknowledged receipt of the VCBR report.

Other At 2:49, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of the next meeting, March 12, 2025, that will be conducted regarding SHRC interviews.

Adjournment At 2:50, the March 6, 2025, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
March 12, 2025
Virtual