

Central Region LHRC

Virtual Meeting

February 19, 2025

Minutes

Members Present:

Ed Helton, Chair Prince Edward

Bonnie Green, Vice Chair Chester

Charita Threatt, member. Chesterfield

Dr. Robyn Scott, member Chesterfield

Members Absent

Londella Hamilton

Wananga Mkamdawire

Deborah Green

Others Present

Bridgette Bland, Office of Human Rights, Region 4

Amya Henderson, Office of Human Rights, Region 4

Andrea Milhouse, Office of Human Rights, Region 4,

Dee Moore, Disputanta

Alicia Jones, Central State Hospital, Petersburg

Nicole Durose, disability Law Center of Virginia, Richmond

Providers Present

Jennifer Immekus, District 19 Community Services Board, Petersburg

Shannon Mines-Bland District 19 Community Services Board, Petersburg

Terrelle Stewart, District 19 Community Services Board, Petersburg

Elizabeth Ezell, Central State Hospital, room monitor, Petersburg

CALL TO ORDER

Edward Helton, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 9:46am February 19, 2025, meeting. We do have a quorum for today's meeting that was held virtually.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance made introductions. Members stated their names and location as stated above with the virtual meeting. Others present placed in a virtual waiting room until agenda items were addressed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bonnie Green made motion to accept the agenda, Robyn Scott seconded motion. All in favor. Approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections to minutes from January 15, 2025.

Added Bonnie Green, Chesterfield

Londella Hamilton, Chesterfield

Bonnie Green made a motion to accept corrections. Charita Threatt seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Robyn Scott made a motion to accept the minutes. Bonnie Green seconded. All in favor, Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADVOCATE REPORT

Read by Advocate Bridgette Bland, OHR

Poplar Springs Hospital has submitted an appeal for findings #1 through #4 to the State Human Rights Committee. Their proposed action plan was read for Finding #5.

LHRC Recruitment

Please contact Regional Human Rights Advocate, Andrea Milhouse via email at andrea.milhouse@dbhds.virginia.gov if you know of anyone interested in becoming a member of Region 4's LHRCs or the SHRC.

Updates:

- There is an open [public comment forum](#) for 30 days on this DRAFT Noncontroversial Streamlining, Clarifying, and Regulatory Reductions to Chapter 115. In accordance with Governor Youngkin's [Executive Directive 1](#) to remove "regulations not mandated by federal or state statute, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, and in a manner consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth," the DBHDS Office of Human Rights reviewed the human rights regulations to identify noncontroversial amendments and developed a draft for consideration as fast track actions. Goals of the DRAFT revision to the Human Rights Regulations are to increase individuals' access to due process and rights protection, to make the regulations easier to

understand, and to improve administrative and program efficiencies to facilitate both provider compliance and increased availability of Human Rights advocates for direct involvement with individuals receiving services. Here is the link for the PDF of Chapter 115, Periodic Review Response DRAFT - [DRAFT Noncontroversial Regulatory Reductions to Chapter 115](#) Will begin on **1/27/2025**, and will end at midnight on **2/26/2025**

- The Office of Human Right continues to be dedicated in providing education to assist provider applicants, or newly licensed or funded providers, or existing providers who'd like a refresher in navigating and understanding the Office of Human Rights processes and expectations. Each virtual session repeats monthly, and is scheduled the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 10a – 12p [2025-New-Provider-Orientation-Calendar.pdf](#)
- Listed on the **2025 Community Provider Trainings Calendar** you will find Provider education opportunities facilitated by the Office of Human Rights. New in 2025, the Office of Human Rights is pleased to announce that we will be offering *Overview for Professionals Training and Dignity of Risk*. Please see the calendar for details! [PDF-2025-Community-Provider-Training-Calendar.Final .pdf](#)
- Call or text 988 or find help online at [988va.org](#) for themselves or a friend or family member who may need crisis support.
- Next SHRC meeting is March 6, 2025: Region 2

LHRC Training Offerings: Opportunities for training should occur during the Advocate Comment period of each LHRC meeting. If you have questions related to LHRC training, please contact your LHRC Advisor, Amaya Henderson:

- New Member Orientation/Refresher: LHRC Composition and Responsibilities (includes Robert's Rules of Order) – Conducted via Teams w/OHR Training and Development Coordinator
- Complaints and Appeal Hearing Process (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- Overview of Human Rights Regulation (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- FOIA (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- LHRC Review Forms (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- Behavioral Support Plan Review
- Dignity
- Research
- Authorized Representatives/Next Friend
- Variances
- Restrictions on Freedoms of Everyday Life

Upcoming 2024 SHRC Meetings

April 10, 2025: - Region 4

May 22, 2025: - Region 1 -Lexington

June 26, 2025: -Region 3- Marion

August 14, 2025: -Region 5 – Virginia Beach

September 25, 2025: -Region 2

October 23, 2025: -Region 1- Winchester

December 11, 2025: Region 5- Williamsburg

The SHRC is required to meet at least 8 times a year. Unless special circumstances apply, administrative sessions normally convene at 8:30AM. Regular sessions normally convene at 9:00AM and run until all agenda items are addressed. Portions of meetings are held in closed session. Appeals are normally scheduled for late morning.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional meeting date for Fact Finding Hearing- Petitioner vs. Gateway Home, Inc. in regard to HRR 12VAC35-115-150(E)

Members present have agreed to meet March 5, 2025 at 10:00 virtually due to executive order 45 being in effect.

Fact Finding Hearing -Petitioner vs. District 19 Community Services Board (D19)

Review of rights read by Chairperson Edward Helton and additional rights. An opportunity for an open or closed meeting. Ms. Durose was informed that the LHRC would have a decision by Wednesday March 5, 2025.

Ms. Nicole Durose on behalf of Ms. Jones chose to have an open hearing.

Both parties were given 5 minutes of opening arguments.

Opening statement Nicole Durose stated represented client EJ. Stated that District 19 submitted false information to the courts and added additional information according to client EJ and went out of their way to have client hospitalized. She reported that District 19 misused the information and EJ was admitted to Central State Hospital.

Terrelle Stewart of District 19 Case Forensic Team. NGRI stated that District 19 acted on the information that they received and presented the information to the court based on the information.

Both provided 10 minutes for testimony.

Nicole Durose provided testimony that on District 19 violated EJ rights to include Dignity, Restrictions, Services and Participation and Abuse and Neglect.

District 19 provided testimony that District 19 EJ was non-compliant with services and with her treatment.

Closing statement from Nicole Durose disability Law Center of Virginia in Richmond, reported that client EJ tried to be compliant with all District 19 demands and based on information recommended an audit by an independent party.

Closing statement from District 19 followed all protocol and no human rights violations were committed. District 19 states that they had training in November 2023 of NGRI and all District 19 take updates on Human Rights training annually.

10:48 Chairperson Edward Helton thanked all parties for their testimony. Informed that the LHRC will deliver findings with 10 days and each party has the right to appeal the decision.

Closed Session

At 10:50AM Bonnie Green made a motion to go into executive closed session, Charita Threat seconded and approved by all.

Deliberations regarding findings made in closed session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 1:23PM Charita Threatt made a motion to return to open session. Robyn Scott seconded. Approved by all.

Upon reconvening in open session, 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 deliberate findings for fact-finding hearing.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next meeting will be held on March 5, 2025 time and date to be determined

Upon a motion made by Edward Helton and seconded by, the meeting adjourned at 1:25PM meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charita Threatt, Secretary

Central Region Local Human Rights Committee