

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services- DBHDS

Southeast Alliance Local Human Rights Committee-LHRC

Zoom Meeting  
4/20/2021 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Link:

<https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/16144829190?pwd=Uld1MzQwTmpVWnZtSmpGY1BwTVV5QT09>

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Candi Rhodes -Chairperson  
Stephanie Nesbitt –Member  
Sebrina Edwards -Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Precious Ethridge -Vice Chairperson  
Charles Ponquinette -Member

**OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS-(OHR)**

Michael Gause- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS  
Reginald Daye – Regional Manager, DBHDS  
Latoya Wilborne- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS  
April DeLandro- Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Brian Kates- Newport News Behavioral Health Center, Director of Risk Management and Performance Improvement  
Courtney Campbell- Blue Ridge Residential Services, Program Manager  
Anthony Wolfe- Blue Ridge Residential Services, Regional Coordinator  
Michele Humphries- Wall Residences, Regional Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Candi Rhodes called meeting to order at 3:07 PM. Those in attendance made introductions to include their name and title.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Ms. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Nesbitt at 3:10 p.m. for the Southeast Alliance LHRC to go into closed session pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711 (A), for the purpose of reviewing confidential information, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session requirements involving a restrictive plan for Blue Ridge Residential Services.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The committee reconvened in open session at 3:39 p.m. by unanimous vote on a motion by Ms. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Nesbitt. Each member certified that, to the best of each of their knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session

requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, was discussed in the closed session, namely for the purposes of reviewing the proposed restrictive plan of Blue Ridge Residential Services.

**Recommendation: Motion made by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt and unanimously approved by the committee members as follows:**

- To approve the lap belt and bed rails.
- The committee disapproves video monitoring at this time and recommends Blue Ridge Residential Services explore more effective devices than video monitoring.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Ms. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Nesbitt at 3:40 p.m. for the Southeast Alliance LHRC to go into closed session pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711 (A), for the purpose of reviewing confidential information, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session requirements involving the reviewing of a restrictive plan for Wall Residences.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The committee reconvened in open session at 3:44 p.m. by unanimous vote on a motion by Ms. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Nesbitt. Each member certified that, to the best of each of their knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from the statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, was discussed in the closed session, namely for the purposes of reviewing a restrictive plan for Wall Residences.

**Recommendation: Motion made by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt and unanimously approved by the committee members as follows:**

- Provide a 90-day update at the July 2021 Southeast Alliance Local Human Rights Committee meeting

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The April 20, 2021 agenda was motioned to be accepted by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt and unanimously approved by the committee members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from January 19, 2021 were motioned to be accepted by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt and unanimously approved by the committee members.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **CHAIR-PERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **REGIONAL ADVOCATE/ HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE REPORT**

Mr. Reginald Daye made the announcements:

- The next meeting will be held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19.
- Human Rights Advocate, April DeLandro, is leaving her current role within the Office of Human Rights Region 5 and is going to work for another state department. Therefore, a new vacancy is posted for a new Human Rights Advocate.
- Described changes in the structure within OHR which included the division between Community Advocates and Facility Advocates. The Facilities Regional Manager is providing supervision to Lakel Gurley-Upshaw. Taneika Goldman is now the new State Human Rights Director, following the retirement of Deborah Lochart.
- There have been changes in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA training will be conducted by Michael Gause during the July 20, 2021 LHRC meeting where the updates will be discussed. One update is that the LHRC proceedings are to be recorded, which is why the current meeting was being recorded to ensure compliance with the new FOIA updates.
- Meetings are not to be recorded in closed session.
- The SEA-LHRC has an upcoming hearing. Potential meeting dates and times were discussed.
- Some members' term is about to expire. The members were asked to return reappointment applications within a timely manner to ensure reappointment by June 30, 2021.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Newport News Behavioral Health Center
  - Mr. Brian Kates presented the quarterly variance update:
    - Restrictions on Freedoms of Everyday Life
      - No complaints or grievances.
    - Telephone/Visitation
      - No complaints

## **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 3:00 PM – Location: Zoom

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Motion made to ADJOURN the meeting by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Nesbitt at 4:04 PM with the unanimous approval of the committee members.