

METROPOLITAN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMITTEE
MINUTES – APPROVED
December 19, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pamela Jones, Secretary
Kiva Gatewood, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sharae Henderson, Chair
Mark Smallacombe, Member
Michelle Whittingham, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Amaya Henderson, Advocate
Bridgette Bland, Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

Pamela Jones, called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.
Introductions were made by all present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was reviewed by all present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 24, 2024, meeting were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

Advocate Comments, Region 4, 3rd Quarter, 2024

Quarterly Complaint Statistics are reported from the previous quarter.

For the quarter ending 9/30/2024 in Region 4:

- 29 Complaints involving allegations of ANE (CSB)
- 446 Complaints involving allegations of ANE (Providers)
- 10 Complaints not involving ANE (CSB)
- 58 Complaints not involving ANE (Providers)
- 543 Total Complaints Received

Of Q3's 543 total complaints in region 4, 161 allegations involving ANE were substantiated, 6 violations were found regarding complaint not involving ANE. (457 complaints received in Q2).

· Summary of current Variances for R4

There are currently no variances for under review in Region 4.

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:

*Senior Human Rights Advocate, Cheryl Young will officially retire December 1, 2024.

*As of August 15, 2024, Heather Norton has accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner for Community Services. Prior to accepting this role, Heather had been serving both in the Acting Deputy Commissioner for Community Services role and as the Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Services.

*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

*Guidance regarding duplicate complaints was shared with the committee

Bridget Bland presented training information regarding Roberts Rules of Order.

OLD BUSINESS

Kelly Betts and Antoinette Harvey with HopeTree Family Services presented an update on a previously approved restriction.

Larry Walker with Foundation for Care, Inc. gave an update on committee recommendations from a previous hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Mykala Sauls, DBHDS OHR Facility Advocate, Elaine Tucker and David Hurd were present to provide information to the sub-committee regarding a Next Friend request. Recommendations will be made at the next full committee meeting.

Jean Jeudi with A Different Works Home Services presented a provider request for Restrictions to Dignity/Freedoms of Everyday Life. The subcommittee reviewed the information and will make recommendations at the next full committee meeting.

CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION

N/A

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

N/A

NEXT MEETING

March 27, 2025

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

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.