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| STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE | |  |  | |
| John Barrett, Chairperson  Richmond / Deltaville  Wil Childers, Vice-Chairperson  Hardy  David Boehm  Marion  Julie Dwyer-Allen  Leesburg  Monica Lucas  Richmond  Sandy Robbins  Valentines  Timothy Russell  Williamsburg  Cora Swett  Nokesville | COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services*  *Post Office Box 1797* Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797 ALISON G. LAND, FACHE, COMMISSIONER | | | Deb Lochart  State Human Rights Director  deb.lochart@dbhds.virginia.gov  Office of Human Rights  1220 Bank Street  Richmond, VA 23219  P.O. Box 1797  Richmond, VA 23218  www.dbhds.virginia.gov |

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|  | **State Human Rights Committee Meeting**  ***MINUTES***  **Thursday, August 13, 2020**  VIRTUAL MEETING  AdobeConnect  **Administrative Session**  **10:15 a.m.** |  | | |
| **Members Present** | John Barrett, **Chairperson;** Will Childers, **Vice-Chairperson;** David Boehm; Julie Dwyer-Allen; Monica Lucas; Sandy Robbins; Timothy Russell; Cora Swett | | |  |
| **Staff Present** | Deb Lochart, State Human Rights Director  Taneika Goldman, Deputy State Human Rights Director  Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General  Jennifer Kovack, Senior Human Rights Manager Community Operations  Mary Clair O’Hara, Facility Risk Management and Training Manager  Carrie Flowers, Human Rights Advocate  Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary | | |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | The SHRC considered approval of the agenda.  *Upon a motion by Cora Swett and seconded by Sandy Robbins the agenda was approved unanimously.* | | |  |
| **Correspondence and Information** | Deb Lochart, State Human Rights Director, affirmed that SHRC meetings will continue to be conducted electronically at least until June 2021. Discussion followed about circumstances in which meetings on location may be warranted. | | |  |
|  | **Regular Session**  **10:24 a.m.** | |  | |
| **Members Present** | John Barrett, **Chairperson;** Will Childers, **Vice-Chairperson;** David Boehm; Julie Dwyer-Allen; Monica Lucas; Sandy Robbins; Timothy Russell; Cora Swett | | |  |
| **Staff Present** | Deb Lochart, State Human Rights Director  Taneika Goldman, Deputy State Human Rights Director  Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General  Jennifer Kovack, Senior Human Rights Manager Community Operations  Mary Clair O’Hara, Facility Risk Management and Training Manager  Carrie Flowers, Human Rights Advocate  Kli Kinzie, Executive Secretary | | |  |
| **Call to Order** | At 10:24, John Barrett, Chairperson, called the August 13, 2020, State Human Rights Committee meeting to order. A call for introductions took place prior to proceeding. | | |  |
| **Draft Minutes Review** | The SHRC reviewed the draft minutes of the July 16, 2020, SHRC meeting.  *Upon a motion by Cora Swett and seconded by David Boehm the minutes of the July 16, 2020, SHRC meeting were unanimously approved with one correction.* | | |  |
| **Presentation:** VCBR: An Historical Perspective | At 10:26, Deb Lochart reported on the history of the relationship of Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) and the DBHDS human rights program. | | |  |
| **Public Comment Period** | At 10:59, Chairperson Barrett called for public comments. *No Public Comments were offered.* | | |  |
| **Overview:** NW Works, Inc. | At 10:59, Melody Crossway, Director of Mission Services, joined the meeting to talk about services provided by NW Works, Inc., in Winchester, Virginia. Ms. Crossway was joined by Debera Taylor, CEO and Valerie Carney, Compliance Coordinator.  NW Works provides programs and services that are designed to meet the needs of individuals 17 years or older and have disabilities, including developmental disabilities, mental health issues, physical challenges, traumatic brain injury, and hearing and vision impairments. Services include working with people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), veterans with disabilities, and individuals with other barriers to employment. NW Works serves populations in Winchester, Frederick County, Clarke County, as well as other neighboring counties. Their mission is to enable adults with disabilities and individuals with significant barriers to employment to gain training and secure and sustain meaningful employment.  In response to the COVID crisis staff send letters, maintain current information on their website and use Facebook to stay in touch with the individuals they serve. They distribute surveys for feedback on comfort level and engageability when coming in for day support activities. Changes have been made within buildings to ensure social distancing. Visiting protocols have been updated to maintain safety for individuals, families and staff. | | |  |
| **Facility Overview and S/R Reporting** | At 11:26, Carrie Flowers, Human Rights Advocate, provided the facility overview and seclusion/restraint reporting for Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation for June and July, 2020. Ms. Flowers reported on census, restraints, transportation and restraint, including pharmacological restraint. There were no injuries during the period.  There was brief discussion about construction at the facility, founded violations and pharmacological restraint. Information will be provided at the September meeting. | | |  |
| **Update in OHR Initiatives** | At 11:36, Taneika Goldman provided an update on the activities of the Office of Human Rights (OHR). Jennifer Kovack is now the Senior Human Rights Manager over community operations. Mary Clair O’Hara is the Senior staff for facility operations. Ms. Kovack and Ms. O’Hara may become more active in SHRC meetings by providing updates to the committee. Carrie Flowers is now the full time dedicated facility advocate for region 4.  Carlton Henderson, Training and Development Coordinator, met with Monica Lucas and is moving forward with the HR Access project.  OHR held another event relative to the department’s initiative on diversity, equity and inclusion. Following the forum on social unrest specific to race relations held in early July, Carlton Henderson facilitated a survey to learn what information and training OHR staff would like to receive. An internal council is forming to incorporate initiatives into protocols.  The department has established a budget for the equity program and is working in partnership with VCU to look at how to implement strategic planning. There are plans to appoint an Equity Officer. The Equity Officer will report directly to the Commissioner  Community look behinds are being conducted remotely. OHR is wrapping up the facility look behind and will bring a report to the SHRC. The office is doing a lot of work with CHRIS data and the Data Warehouse as business becomes more data driven.  OHR is working with the Department for Aging and the Department of Rehabilitative Services to integrate processes and improve the Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services system.  Deb Lochart reported that the Annual Report is being re-developed. The report will be ready in September and will go to the DBHDS State Board in October. | | |  |
| **Subcommittees** | At 11:48, John Barrett called for subcommittee reports.  Bylaws Subcommittee: Monica Lucas, Chairperson; Cora Swett; Taneika Goldman, Staff  Monica Lucas reported on behalf of the Bylaws subcommittee. The Bylaws are under review by the OAG. Ms. Lucas spoke briefly about the subcommittee’s work on empowering individuals through HR Access and her collaboration with Carlton Henderson.    Policy Subcommittee: Sandy Robbins, Chairperson; David Boehm, Taneika Goldman, Staff.  Sandy Robbins reported on behalf of the Policy Subcommittee. She thanked Deb Lochart for her presentation on VCBR and spoke briefly about VCBR. She is looking forward to speaking with VCBR leadership at the next meeting to  discuss procedures at VCBR and the uniqueness that VCBR has in relation to human rights.  Officer Subcommittee: Sandy Robbins.  The Officer subcommittee had nothing to report at this time.  Workplan / Membership Subcommittee: Julie Dwyer-Allen, Chairperson; Timothy Russell.  At 12:06, Julie Dwyer-Allen reported that she spoke with Megan Skarkey about the SHRC’s recommendation to have her appointed to the SHRC. Ms. Sharkey’s appointment will be considered by the DBHDS State Board at its October meeting. Julie Dwyer-Allen reached out to the other applicants to inform them of the SHRC’s decision, and asked them to consider applying again in the future.  Timothy Russell reported that the SHRC Workplan is under review. He will draft a plan of goals and ask for input from the full committee at the next meeting. | | |  |
| **LHRC Business** | At 12:10, the SHRC considered LHRC business. | | |  |
| **LHRC Tour** | There was no update on the LHRC Tour. SHRC members should contact Taneika Goldman if they are interested in attending LHRC meetings remotely.  Will Childers attended a Norrthwestern Area LHRC meeting by phone. | | |  |
| **LHRC Membership** | *Upon a motion by Will Childers and properly seconded the SHRC convened in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of discussion and consideration of matters lawfully exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, namely to consider LHRC membership.*  Taneika Goldman led the discussion and presented recommendations. | | |  |
|  | Upon reconvening in open session all members of the SHRC certified that to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session, were discussed in the closed session.  *Upon a motion by Monica Lucas and seconded by David Boehm the SHRC unanimously made the following reappointments:* | | |  |
| Appointments | Region 1  Rappahannock-Rapidan LHRC  Reappoint: Arla Lewis  Region 4  Metropolitan LHRC  Reappoint: Kimberly Johnson, Ashea Green | | |  |
| **Other** | Chairman John Barrett thanked Deb Lochart for her presentation on Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation. | | |  |
| **Adjournment** | *At 12:15, having no further business to discuss the August 13, 2020, SHRC meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2020.* | | |  |

Respectfully Submitted,

John Barrett, Chairperson Kli Kinzie,

State Human Rights Committee Executive Secretary