

LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

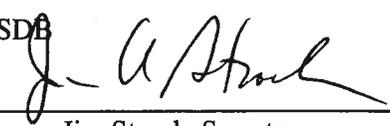
01/20/09

Present: Wendy Young, Chair
Greg Czyszczon, Member
Joe Tuell, CCCA Fac. Dir.
Jerry Thomas, DMHMRSAS/Advocate
Teresa Kennedy, *Affiliate: Family Preservation Svcs.*
Kathryn Dickerson, *Affiliate: Liberty Point*
Mark Stevens, VOPA

Jim Strock, Secretary
Mark Seymour, DMHMRSAS/Advocate
Pam White, CCCA LHRC Liaison
Don Roe, Ph.D., CCCA Assist. Director
Deana Goldstein, *Affiliate: Liberty Point*
Jenny Heilborn, VOPA

Absent: Macy Fox, Vice Chair
Paul Krikau, Member

Guests: Nancy Armstrong, Ed.D., VSDB
Barbara Prettyman, VSDB

Minutes Prepared by: Pamela White, CCCA Liaison
Approved by: 
Jim Strock, Secretary

CURRENT AGENDA	FUTURE AGENDA
1. Call to Order; Review of Minutes	1. Call to Order; Review of Minutes
2. General: Affiliated Programs	2. General: Affiliated Programs
3. Advocate's Report	3. Advocate's Report
4. CCCA Facility Director's Report	4. CCCA Facility Director's Report
5. Adjourn	5. The next regular CCCA LHRC meeting has been scheduled for 03/17/09 @ 6:00pm.

1. Jim Strock-Acting Chair called the meeting to order with a review of the CCCA LHRC minutes of 11/18/08.

Action: The CCCA LHRC minutes of 11/18/08 were approved as presented.

2. **General discussion** items from the affiliated programs that were represented include:
 - a. Teresa Kenney, *Affiliate: Family Preservation Services* commented generally about the program component of therapeutic day treatment and the provision of service by accompanying a child in the school environment.
 - b. Deana Goldstein-*Affiliate: Liberty Point* provided an update regarding the new program, which has a "reward rich" environment. Ms. Goldstein reported that current census was 27 although licensed for 42 beds. She added that currently there were 5 residents in the group home.

Action: The CCCA LHRC thanked the attending affiliated programs for their updates.

A request for program affiliation with the CCCA LHRC was presented by Nancy C. Armstrong, Ed.D.-Superintendent of Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind (VSDB), noting a recent change in licensure requirements and compliance with DMHMRSAS human rights regulations. Dr. Armstrong distributed copies of student policies acknowledging the assistance and input of Advocate Jerry Thomas. She further stated that previously, VSDB had been under the VA Department of Education for licensure. She also commented that students leave on Fridays and return on Sunday evenings. Dr. Armstrong reported that the school has moved away from a "hands on" approach and that no elements of time out, seclusion or restraint are utilized as students are sent home if behaviors are unmanageable. Having reviewed the policies, Mr. Thomas recommended that VSDB's program be affiliated with the CCCA LHRC.

Action: The CCCA LHRC voted to approve the student policies of VSDB and its request for affiliation.

3. Mark Seymour-DMHMRSAS/Advocate presented his Advocate's Report, commenting that many issues have yet to be resolved regarding the State budget crisis and the provision of mental health services. He expressed concern regarding the closure of CCCA and the 16-bed Adolescent Unit at Southwestern VA Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI). Mr. Seymour related that should CCCA close, children's programs in the community will continue to need LHRC oversight. Mr. Seymour announced that the *Crossroads Counseling* program and request for affiliation will be deferred to the next meeting. He also added that there is legislation proposing a name change for DMHMRSAS: *The Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services*.

4. Don Roe, Ph.D.-Assist. Director presented the Facility Director's Report, addressing the 06/30/09 closure of CCCA among the items presented in Governor Timothy Kaine's budget on 12/17/08. He stated that the current budget proposal eliminates all State-operated mental health beds for children and adolescents in Virginia. A third DMHMRSAS facility, Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC) with 200 beds for the intellectually disabled is also slated for closure. Dr. Roe reported that there are no plans in place at present for the provision of services by private providers although the Center continues to communicate the most accurate information and data critical to the closure decision. He said that there has been much support throughout the State as to the need for these services as well as concern about what will happen to youngsters without the "safety net" of CCCA, which is the end of the continuum of services either exhausted or unavailable in the community. Dr. Roe reported that for Calendar Year 2008, the Center had 615 admissions with an Average Length of Stay of 21 days. He added that it will be up to the General Assembly to reinstate funding for CCCA and SWVMHI's Adolescent Unit to remain open.

Joe Tuell-Facility Director apologized for joining the meeting late, having earlier attended a facility closure meeting in Richmond. He reported that while many questions remain unanswered, Center staff continue to focus on patient care. Although CCCA is expecting an onsite review by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) soon, Mr. Tuell hopes to defer it until after the General Assembly and Governor agree on the budget which will determine the fate of CCCA. He commented that presently, Community Services Boards (CSBs) are not in favor of closure since they will have budget reductions as well. Mr. Tuell reiterated that in general, public outcry has been in support of keeping the Center open and has validated the services provided here.

Action: The CCCA LHRC expressed support for the Center to remain open and in the event of closure, restated concerns regarding the planning process for the provision of acute psychiatric services in the community by private providers.