

# **ALEXANDRIA LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of July 16, 2008 meeting

Community Services Board Offices

Alexandria, Virginia

Committee Members Present: Marisa Brown, Amrita Banerjee, Gerylee Baron, Jim Ewalt, Kelly Hauck, Mary LoCicero, Molly O'Shea, M. Andrea Rakmanov, Deborah Sikes, and Scott Singleton. Also present: Michael Gilmore, Executive Director, CSB; Phil Caldwell, CSB; Melissa Unruh, CSB HR Advocate; Jennifer Cohen-Cordero, ACSB; Tim Simmons, Senior Human Rights Advocate.

## Call to Order:

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order by The Chair, Gerylee Baron, at 7:15 PM.

## Welcome and Introductions:

Gerylee introduced the committee and staff members. The agenda was reordered.

Jennifer Cohen-Cordero was recognized and thanked for her contributions to the committee during her tenure. The committee also congratulated and conveyed best wishes for her and her expectant baby.

## Report from the CSB Human Rights Advocate:

Melissa asked Jennifer to respond to the questions the committee had asked about certain items in the list of "Rights & Responsibilities." Scott moved and Marisa seconded that the document be approved as amended. The motion was adopted.

There was discussion about requiring each service provider to make an annual or more frequent presentation or report about their use of medications, restrictive programs, consumer complaints, and compliance with the state regulations. There was consensus that this was a good idea but that there needs to be further discussion to refine and detail exactly what information the committee is looking for from the provider. Mike stated that because the CSB has so many programs requiring separate reports for each

would be particularly burdensome for his office. Tim clarified that the committee is empowered to make such requests if it votes to do so. The committee agreed to Mike's offer to provide descriptions of all the CSB programs so it can review them and determine from which, if any, to request presentations.

There was discussion about the committee's interest in learning more about changes and implementation of recovery and person centered processes. Phil talked about new person centered efforts being undertaken within the services programs. This is a paradigm shift for clients and staff. There has been staff training for this transformation.

There was discussion about holding a meeting and tour at the Club House so that committee members could become familiar with it. It was decided to hold the next meeting, scheduled for August 20, 2008, at the Club House, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 4480 King St. Mike volunteered to recruit several members to participate.

#### Report from the State Human Rights Advocate:

Tim reported that Child Help has received a recommendation that it become a new affiliate of the Alexandria LHRC. He explained that the state regulations explicitly apply to minors.

There will be a human rights training on September 13, 2008 for new and existing LHRC members. Tim encouraged all members to attend as it will be a different kind of training to help LHRC's understand and think about how they want to function and provide oversight.

#### Minutes of Last Meeting:

Kelly moved and Andrea seconded that the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting be approved as amended. The motion was adopted.

#### Other Business:

Marisa distributed for the committee's general information, an article about restraints.

Kelly will provide dates for visits to group homes.

#### Adjournment:

Kelly moved and Scott seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at the Club House, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 4480 King St.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ewalt, Secretary