

NORTHWESTERN AREA LHRC

Final Minutes

June 9, 2022

10:00 AM

209 W. Criser Rd #300, Front Royal, VA 22630

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carol Morgan – Member

Stacey Umbenour – Member

Kevin LeVan-Member

Lisa Parlett-Member

Chris Taylor-member

Members Absent

Vanessa Santiago-Member

Emma Stasiak-Member

Cathy Wolfe-Heberle

Linda Stasiak-Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Heather Hilleary – Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS Region #1

Artea Ambrose – Human Rights Advocate, DBHDS Region #1

Jennifer Sykes – Legal Guardian/mother

Devon Sykes – Step Father

Dawn Vanmetre – Director, Community Alternatives of Virginia

CALL TO ORDER

Kevin LeVan called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance made introductions. Chair welcomed attendees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Agenda motioned to be approved by Carol Morgan and seconded by Stacey Umbenour. The committee approved the agenda by unanimous vote of 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NW Area LHRC February 2022 Minutes

- Minutes were motioned to be approved by Stacey Umbenour and seconded by Chris Taylor. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous vote of 5-0.

NW Area LHRC April 2022 Minutes

- Minutes were motioned to be approved by Stacey Umbenour and seconded by Chris Taylor. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

• Quarterly ANE and complaint statistics

For the quarter ending 3/31/2022 in Region 1:

32 Complaints involving allegations of ANE (CSB)

339 Complaints involving allegations of ANE (Providers)

11 Complaints not involving ANE (CSB)

16 Complaints not involving ANE (Providers)

Of the 398 total complaints, 47 were substantiated. This is a percentage of 11.35% substantiated cases.

Interestingly, in the last report for Q4 of 2021, the percentage of substantiated cases was also 11.35%.

• Summary of current Variances for R1

There are no current variances for community-based providers in Region 1.

• Updates

Omni Institute Report on Opioid Misuse: According to a new report released by OMNI Institute, an evaluation partner of DBHDS. The report details a 60% decrease in misuse of any opioids in the past 30 days by participants in Virginia's State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant-funded program. These participants accessed a variety of treatment and recovery services according to the best fit for their needs. The three most commonly utilized services are Medication-Assisted Treatment, counseling, and peer support. Curbing the opioid crisis in Virginia has been one of our top priorities, even before the COVID-19 pandemic brought alarming new trends in overdoses. Now, more than ever, the work to expand treatment access, increase prevention and community coalitions, and deploy multi-year federal SOR grants is critical as we work to reverse these trends. This new data gives us great hope for what treatment and recovery services can do for those that are able to access them.

Claude Moore Scholars – The Richmond Times-Dispatch featured a story about our partnership with the Claude Moore Foundation's Scholars program, which is working to connect students to possible careers in health care, and especially behavioral health. This work has begun with a partnership between Petersburg Public Schools and Central State Hospital, and in the coming months, students in the program will have a chance to participate in a work study program at Central State that will help expose them to the many different careers within the behavioral health field. We are very excited about the possibilities here and see our work with Claude Moore as building a pipeline for the future that can truly benefit our entire system, while also strengthening our connections to the communities we serve.

Governor's Commitment to Mental Health

[Channeling Virginia's pioneering spirit to address our mental health crisis \(Opinion\)](#)

By Governor Glenn Youngkin, Washington Times, March 15, 2022

As Virginia's Governor, it is my mission to make Virginia the best place to live, learn, work and raise a family. One critical component to delivering on this promise is to ensure that Virginia has a health care structure that supports the strong and resilient residents of the Commonwealth, which includes the resources for and support of mental health care. Throughout my campaign, I heard from Virginians about the challenges of accessing affordable, quality care. They told me their heart-wrenching stories of mental illness and substance abuse on families and communities. Virginia has a long history of "firsts," and this includes in the mental health arena, when America's first public mental health hospital was established in Williamsburg in 1773. It's time to address our mental health crisis in an equally pioneering and innovative way.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the negative impacts for those who need mental health care. Even before the pandemic, many people of all ages, all across the Commonwealth, struggled with their mental health. Suicide, anxiety and depression have increased dramatically. The opioid crisis continues to devastate our communities. While the past two years have lessened the stigma for those seeking assistance and allowed more of us to talk openly about mental health and substance use needs, we still have work to do.

My administration will focus on wellness, prevention and treatment to meaningfully impact and strengthen mental health in the Commonwealth. One early emphasis will be on young Virginians: we know the tragic effect mental health and substance use have during the developmental years, in K-12, and higher education. Many of our colleges and universities, as well as many local school divisions, have substantially increased their focus and resources to empower students to address mental health and build resiliency a key strength that will serve them throughout life. But let's be clear, young people are not the only ones struggling with mental health and substance use; these challenges affect people regardless of age, race, income or locality.

Diminishing the stigma for those seeking help is critical, but we also must ensure that quality prevention and treatment options are both available and accessible. We know that we must build additional services at the local level, especially preventive care, to help individuals manage their symptoms so they do not end up in crisis centers, hospitals or the justice system.

Today, many other tools are available, including cognitive behavioral therapy, resiliency, telehealth and peer-counseling. These proven therapies can help give access to people who have struggled to get help when they need it most.

I am also committed to addressing long-standing challenges at Virginia's mental health hospitals and to lessen the burden on localities, hospitals and law enforcement, especially our sheriffs. More often than not, when people with mental health issues need crisis care, they instead end up in emergency rooms or jails. Our public and private health workforce has been stretched and strained, yet still works mightily to deliver compassionate care. We must do everything we can to build a strong and vibrant workforce and to incentivize quality behavioral health providers throughout Virginia.

My administration is working with legislators this General Assembly session to make much-needed improvements to state hospital services and community mental health services. These critical actions include working to increase historically low salaries at state hospitals, bolster behavioral health and crisis across Virginia, improve the discharge processes at state hospitals and develop an alternative custody service to relieve law enforcement of long hours waiting with patients in emergency departments.

COVID-19 Cases – As of 3/11/2022 COVID-19 Update – The latest COVID-19 numbers from our facilities show only 10 positive cases across all the DBHDS operated facilities. This is a significant decrease.

• Upcoming Events

Visit the OHR page on the DBHDS website for updated training opportunities. Please see below for upcoming statewide training opportunities between now and July, 2022.

Thursday 6/16/2022	9:30a- 12:30p	The Human Rights Regulations: An Overview <i>This training is designed to provide the learner an in-depth review of the Human Rights Regulations. Providers will increase their understanding of the Office of Human Rights processes and the responsibilities of the provider as mandated by the Human Rights Regulations.</i> <u>REGISTER HERE</u>
Tuesday 6/28/2022 FACILITIES ONLY	10:00a – 3:00p	Facility Investigation Training (FIT) <i>This training is designed for new and seasoned facility investigators alike. The training will cover human rights processes, the DI 201, and investigative process.</i> <u>REGISTER HERE</u>

Thursday 7/14/2022	9:30a- 12:30p	<p>Reporting in CHRIS: Abuse, Neglect, and Human Rights Complaints</p> <p><i>This training is designed to educate the learner on the human rights complaint process and provider reporting requirements specific to abuse and neglect allegations. The learner will increase their understanding of CHRIS and the Human Rights Regulations regarding human rights complaints and reporting.</i></p> <p>REGISTER HERE</p>
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2022 SHRC Meetings

The SHRC will be meeting on the following remaining dates in 2022. For details regarding meeting information, please reach out to your assigned Advocate.

June 23, 2022
August 18, 2022
September 29, 2022
November 3, 2022
December 8, 2022

LHRC Trainings

We are currently conducting quarterly virtual LHRC trainings for our assigned LHRCs. The trainings will also be recorded so that LHRC members can access the training and take a competency test to ensure they reviewed and understood the material.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Entered into closed session.
- Hearing: Mrs. Price-Sykes vs Community Alternatives of Virginia

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion made by Kevin LeVan and seconded by Chris Taylor, the committee entered closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, a.15 and §2.2-37.05.5 for the purpose of discussion of treatment plans.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon reconvening in open session, each member certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only private business matters, lawfully exempted from statutory open session requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened, were considered in the closed session,

- Motion made by Kevin Levan and seconded by Carol Morgan to approve deadline extension request by provider for petition response from May 18, 2022 to May 19, 2022 due to The Office of Human Rights providing technical assistance to the provider relating to necessary redaction of the provider's response. The committee approved the deadline extension request for the provider's response to the petition by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Hearing: Mrs. Sykes vs. Community Alternatives of Virginia

Motion made by Stacey Umbenour and seconded by Chris Taylor to approve findings. The committee approved by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- Next meeting will be on August 10th, 2022 at 10:00 am at 209 West Criser Rd. #300, Front Royal, VA.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Hearing no other business items, Kevin LeVan adjourned the meeting at 11:31 AM.

Minutes were transcribed by, Heather Hilleary, Human Rights Advocate.