MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER
February 28, 2007

PRESENT: Donald Lyons, Chairperson
Wilma Brown
Charlotte Barkley
Betty Meredith
Joyce Bunn
Denice Olinger
BJ McKnight, Human Rights Advocate
Karen Poe, Facility Liaison
Dr. Rafael Semidei, Psychiatrist
Dr. Mark Witherspoon, Psychology Director
Michael R. Gray, Field Staff Attorney, VOPA

ABSENT: Dr. Ohlen Wilson
Sandy Yates
Loretta Evans

The Local Human Rights Committee for Southwestern Virginia Training Center met on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room #2. Chairperson, Donald Lyons, called the meeting to order and presided.

On a motion by Betty Meredith, and a second by Joyce Bunn, the minutes from the January 24, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Charlotte Barkley and seconded by Betty Meredith that the Local Human Rights Committee go into Closed Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711.A(4) and (15) for the purpose of hearing a report from Larry Smith, Chief of Program Support Services, on the abuse/neglect investigations. Larry reported a total of 25 (201-A) investigations in 2006. Thus far in 2007, there have been 8 investigations with one resulting in criminal charges against an employee.

After hearing Mr. Smith’s report in Closed Session, a motion was made by Betty Meredith and seconded by Joyce Bunn that the LHRC convene in Open Session. The motion carried.

Upon reconvening in Open Session, the Local Human Rights Committee unanimously certified that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted 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.
Following discussion of the investigations report, Charlotte Barkley made a motion, seconded by Betty Meredith, that a follow-up report be given to the committee next month on the criminal case. There was discussion about what goes into an employee’s record. A Human Resources representative will be asked to answer their questions next month. The committee also requested a report on the corrective action plan for one of the abuse cases.

Continuing in Open Session, Dr. Mark Witherspoon, went over revisions to SWVTC Instruction 570. He said it is likely that the policy will be revised again this year.

A motion was made by Betty Meredith and seconded by Joyce Bunn that the Local Human Rights Committee go into Closed Session pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711.A(4) and (15) for the purpose of reviewing the restrictive behavior plans and/or medication reviews of residents. Such review would necessarily involve discussion and consideration of mental and medical records which are confidential and exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.

After review in Closed Session of the restrictive behavior plans and medication reviews, a motion was made by Denice Olinger and seconded by Wilma Brown that the LHRC convene in Open Session. The motion carried.

Upon reconvening in Open Session, the Local Human Rights Committee unanimously certified that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted 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.

On a motion made by Betty Meredith and a second by Charlotte Barkley, the LHRC unanimously approved as presented individual programs presented by first names and register numbers for residents of Connections, New Horizon, and Pathways Cottages with one update to be given next month.

BJ McKnight handed out copies of the Human Writes newsletter noting a section stating that the final regulations will be presented to the State Board at its April meeting. If all goes well, the new regulations will go into effect in the fall. She also pointed out an anticipated vacancy on the SHRC, if anyone is interested. Also there will be a luncheon in Richmond in April to recognize volunteers. The committee was asked to consider if someone would like to represent the committee at the luncheon.

BJ passed around a handout regarding the cessation of tobacco products in state facilities beginning October 10, 2007. She explained the Center has 4 residents who smoke. They each will have an individualized plan to assist them to stop smoking.
The next meeting of the LHRC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2007.

A motion was made by Betty Meredith and seconded by Charlotte Barkley that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.