

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

David Boehm, Chairperson
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Monica Lucas, Vice-Chairperson
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Will Childers
Hardy
Julie C. Allen
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Crews
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Timothy
Russell
Williamsburg
Renee F. Valdez
Alexandria
John Shepherd
Charlottesville



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
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NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

Taneika Goldman
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State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, September 28, 2023

DBHDS

Region 2

Northern VA Mental Health Institute

3302 Gallows Rd

Conference Rm

Falls Church, VA 22042

Zoom for Government

<https://dbhds-virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1617467467?pwd=TTZ5N0lsdjNUZnVkeXo5Szd4am5oUT09>

Meeting ID: 160 936 8778

Passcode: \$HRCMet1ng

Convene

9:00 a.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically David Boehm, **Chair**; Monica Lucas, **Vice Chair**, David Crews, Betty Crance, John Shepherd, Renee Valdez, Julie C. Allen, Will Childers

SHRC Members Absent Timothy Russell

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Human Rights
Karen A. Taylor, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the SHRC
Braden Curtis, Assistant Attorney General
Nadya Said, Human Rights Advocate, Region 2
Diana Atcha, Human Rights Advocate, Region 2

Staff Attending Virtually Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Facility Operations, Office of Human Rights
Tony Davis, Human Rights Advocate
Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Provider Management, DBHDS
Jason Wilson, VCBR Facility Director

Jesus Garcia, Regulatory Research Specialist

**Others
Attending in
Person**

Cindy Lamb, DBHDS State Board
Donna McGraw, Director of Compliance, Northern VA Mental Health Institute
Chontelai Mendie, Admin Operations Officer, Alexandria CSB
Jennifer Scrivener, RN Manager, Fairfax CSB
Enum Yusuf, Director of Nursing, Fairfax CSB
Michael Lane, Risk Management, Fairfax CSB

**Others
Attending
Virtually**

Rebecca S. Herbig, Director of Litigation, disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)
Taylor Easley, disAbility Rights Advocate, dLCV
Berndaette Lark, Advocate & Emotional Support
Brenda Coles, Member of the Public
Liv O'Neal, CSB Division Director-CRS, Fairfax CSB
Robert Sowell Jr., ACRS Program Coordinator, Fairfax CSB
Carla Bryant, ACRS Assistant Director, Fairfax CSB
Zachary DeVore, disAbility Rights Advocate, dLCV

Call to Order

At 9:13, David Boehm, SHRC Chair, called the September 28, 2023, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions were made.

**Approval of
Agenda**

At 9:16, the committee considered the agenda. David indicated an addition to the agenda, to discuss a letter drafted by Tim in response to VTCC participation in an appeal September 6, 2023. Julie C. Allen motioned for approval. Monica Lucas 2nd. The revised agenda was approved, unanimously.

**Review of Draft
Minutes**

At 9:17, the SHRC reviewed the draft minutes of the August 17, 2023, and September 6, 2023, meeting. Monica Lucas motioned. John Shepherd 2nd for approval. The draft minutes were approved as final, unanimously.

Overview

At 9:20, Donna McGraw, Director of Compliance with Northern VA Mental Health Institute welcomed the committee and others in attendance to the facility. She provided a brief history of Northern VA Mental Health Institute, along with an overview of the population served, programs offered, current initiatives, as well as some successes and challenges.

Public Comment

At 9:36, David Boehm announced the public comment period. Based on technical difficulties, the SHRC reverted back to the public comment at 10:23, Bernadette Lark, Advocate and Emotional Support Rep, made a virtual public comment on behalf of residents at VCBR about repeat human rights violations and a lack of appropriate correction by VCBR.

Notifications	<p>At 9:39, Julie C. Allen announced her resignation from the SHRC, effective September 30, 2023. SHRC members expressed appreciation for Julie's service and Taneika Goldman presented her with a plaque commemorating her service to the SHRC which began July 1, 2016.</p> <p>Taneika Goldman discussed her and David Boehm's presentation of the 2022 SHRC Annual Report of activities to the DBHDS State Board on September 27, 2023. The report will be published to the Office of Human Rights webpage.</p>
DOJ Update:	At 9:45, Braden Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, provided an overview of DBHDS' current status in the Settlement Agreement with the US Department of Justice.
<i>BREAK</i>	At 10:31, David Boehm called for a brief break.
NVMHI: Townhall/ Tour Debrief	At 10:50, the SHRC discussed how the tour and townhall went on September 27, 2023. The SHRC showed great appreciation for the overall tour and townhall setup.
LHRC Business	<p>At 11:03, the SHRC considered LHRC business.</p> <p>Julie Allen and Monica Lucas shared their recent experiences virtually attending LHRC meetings in R2 and R5, respectively.</p>
LHRC Membership	<p>Monica made a motion to approve the appointment for membership and accept the resignation. Julie 2nd. Motion passed.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u> <i>Williamsburg Regional LHRC</i> Valjean Roberts, Jr. <i>Tri-City LHRC –</i> Juanita Coleman - <i>Resignation</i></p>
Subcommittees:	At 11:15, David Boehm explained the role and responsibilities associated with each subcommittee. Taneika Goldman mentioned a request by the Office of Human Rights (OHR) for the SHRC to consider adding a subcommittee to assist with the development of provider templates and resources.
Rights – Resources Subcommittees	Renee Valdez volunteered to join the subcommittee with Monica Lucas, Vice Chair. Taneika Goldman will appoint an OHR staff member.

Policy Subcommittees	John Shepherd volunteered to join the committee with Betty Crance. David Boehm resigned from the subcommittee to focus on his role as SHRC Chairperson.
Workplan Committees	David Crews and Monica Lucas expressed an upcoming goal is to work through the new meeting schedule for 2024, along with outlining specific regional private provider presenters to come speak during the SHRC meetings.
Officer Subcommittee	The Officer Subcommittee has nothing to report currently.
Membership Subcommittee	The Membership Subcommittee acknowledged the need to recruit to fill the family-member role being left vacant by Julie. The subcommittee recommends that the search for members extends to also consider applicants to fill positions becoming vacant in June 2024.
Other	At 11:40, the SHRC discussed a letter to the Commissioner submitted by SHRC Member Timothy Russell. It was noted that the Commissioner was already made aware of the concerns immediately following the September 6, 2023, meeting and a letter was not required. The determination was to allow the SHRCs Findings and Recommendations represent their voice on this matter.
BREAK	At 12:01, David Boehm called for a brief break.
CSB Roundtable	At 12:10, the SHRC held a roundtable session with representatives from the Alexandria and Fairfax CSBs. A call for introductions was made. Taneika Goldman announced the segway for the roundtable.
Presentation:	At 1:02, Jason Wilson, Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) Facility Director, provided an overview of VCBR exemptions and provided the requested status update on access to ASL interpreters by residents.
	At 1:27, the SHRC considered the public comment from an individual regarding patient care notes at VCBR.
Facility Operations	At 1:33, the committee received updates on OHR Facility Operations.
NVMHI Advocate Report	At 1:35, Riley Curran, Human Rights Advocate, presented the NVMHI advocate report.
VCBR Reports	At 1:42, Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Facility Operations, presented the advocate's report on human rights complaints and seclusion and restraint for Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation.

Violation Letters

At 2:00, Mary Clair O'Hara, presented the summary of violation letters issued to DBHDS-operated hospitals and centers for the months of July and August.

S/R & Death

At 2:06, Mary Clair O'Hara, presented seclusion, restraint, and death data for DBHDS-operated hospitals and centers for the months July and August.

Other

At 2:18, Betty Crance stated concerns regarding travel reimbursement ratings for mileage.

David Boehm stated the SHRCs next meeting will be held in Region 3. The SHRC unanimously requested organization of a provider tour. Taneika Goldman indicated that dLCV will be presenting an overview of their annual Critical Incident Report at the next meeting.

Adjournment

At 2:25, the September 28, 2023, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

November 2, 2023

Blue Ridge CSB

Community Outreach Stepdown Program