

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Will Childers, Chairperson
Hardy
Betty Crance, Vice-Chairperson
Fincastle
John Shepherd
Charlottesville
Renee F. Valdez
Alexandria
Christopher Olivo
Yorktown
Bruce Ellsworth
Crozet
Kimberly Hunt
Roanoke



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services*

*Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797*

NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025

9:00AM

Bruce W. Edwards VBEMS Headquarters

4160 Virginia Beach Blvd

Classroom 1

Virginia Beach, VA 23462

[State Human Rights Meeting](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 263 822 217 392

Passcode: ut72X8HJ

Convene

9:00 a.m.

Taneika Goldman
State Human Rights Director
Taneika.Goldman@dbhds.virginia.gov

Office of Human Rights
1220 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

P.O. Box 1797
Richmond, VA 23218
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

SHRC Members Present Physically Will Childers, **Chair**; Betty Crance, **Vice Chair**, Kimberly Hunt, John Shepherd, Christopher Olivo, Renee Valdez, Bruce Ellsworth

SHRC Members Attending Virtually

SHRC Members Absent

Staff Present Physically Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, OHR
Corie Reed, Human Rights Advocate, Region 5
Jennifer Anglin, Human Rights Advocate, Region 5
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR

**Staff Attending
Virtually**

Bryan Columbus, Assistant Admin to Operations, OHR
Amaya Henderson, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Diana Atcha, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 2

**Others
Attending in
Person**

Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC
Michelle Sampson, Program Supervisor, Virginia Beach Community Service Board (VACSB)
Eboney Atkinson, Vice President of Community Living, VersAbility Resources
Erin King, Director of Quality and Compliance, VersAbility Resources
Cate Powell, LCSW, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, Gateway Homes, Inc
Tarencia Smith, Compliance Specialist, Gateway Homes, Inc
Laura Ribins, Authorized Representative

**Others Attending
Virtually**

Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the Inspector General (OSIG
A K

Call to Order

At 9:04, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the August 14, 2025, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.

**Approval of
Agenda**

At 9:08, the committee considered the agenda. Betty Crance motioned for approval. John Shepherd 2nd. The agenda was approved, unanimously.

**Review of Draft
Minutes**

At 9:09, the committee considered the draft minutes from the June 26, 2025, and July 15, 2025, meetings. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Renee Valdez 2nd. The draft minutes were approved, unanimously.

**Welcome and
Overview:**

At 9:09, Michelle Sampson, Program Supervisor, welcomed and thanked the committee for allowing Virginia Beach Community Service Board (VACSB) to host the meeting. Michelle Sampson presented a PowerPoint referencing the Behavioral Health Services division. There are an array of programs and units within the Behavioral Health Division. She mentioned that services follow a strategic plan with four pillars: Pillar of Potential (Service Integration), Pillar of Progress (Access to Service), Pillar of Promise (Communication & Community Engagement), and Pillar of Enhancement (Talent Acquisition & Development).

Tour Debrief: At 9:19, the committee discussed the tour on August 13, 2025, at SkillQuest Day Support Program. SkillQuest provides Day Support services to adults with developmental disabilities. The committee showed great appreciation to the staff with reference to the personal connection the staff had with the individuals. It was stated that the work being done was very age appropriate and creative. The committee was touched by the care and intentionality of the staff at SkillQuest including that they showed great support to individuals that passed away with a memory wall of recognition.

Public Comment: At 9:30, Will Childers announced the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Notifications: At 9:31, Taneika Goldman informed the committee about the Gateway Homes Action Plan for the appeal during the May 22, 2025, SHRC meeting along with an update about the Central State Hospital (CSH) Variance request. She stated the townhall posting for public comment ends today and that there are currently zero comments. The committee will review detailed information regarding the CSH variance request at the next meeting. She also informed the committee that 5 staff members of OHR will be featured on an episode of "Conversations with the Commissioner." Lastly, she made the committee aware of OHR's upcoming All Staff meeting in Winchester, focused on team building and training.

LHRC Liaison Reporting: At 9:38, the SHRC considered LHRC liaison reporting. There was no LHRC liaison reporting. Will encouraged members to visit an LHRC in their region. Taneika also highlighted the continued need for LHRC members and expressed appreciation that Will was already preparing to return to serve at the LHRC level after his SHRC term ends in June 2026. Specifically, he and former SHRC member David Boehm agreed to help revive a committee in Region 3 that currently has 0 members.

LHRC Business: At 9:39, the SHRC considered LHRC business.

Taneika Goldman presented the Staunton Area, Prince William County, and Health Planning 5 LHRCs reappointment and appointment recommendations.

John Shepherd made a motion to approve the reappointments and appointments for LHRC membership. Bruce Ellsworth 2nd. Motion passed.

Facility

Williamsburg Regional LHRC

Melissa South – Reappointment

Dorla Johnson - Appointment

Region 2

Prince William County LHRC

Alice Felker – Reappointment
Kenny Emberton - Appointment

Region 5
Health Planning 5 LHRC
Laura Lee Robins – Appointment

Subcommittees:

At 9:42, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

SHRC Appeals
Procedures
Workgroup

The SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup had nothing to report.

Policy
Subcommittees

The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Membership
Subcommittee

The committee prepared for the upcoming SHRC interview occurring later on the agenda.

Max Appeal
Subcommittee

The Max Appeal Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Officer
Nominating
Subcommittee

The Officer Nominating Subcommittee had nothing to report.

BREAK

At 9:47, Will Childers called for a brief break

Appeal:

At 9:57, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the fact-finding and recommendations from Southeastern Regional LHRC in the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding. Will Childers also informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

Ebonee Atkinson and Erin King, presented in person on behalf of VersAbility Resources. Lisa Marston presented in person on the behalf of R.B. In agreement with the preference of the Authorized Representative, the committee decided to review the appeal in an open session.

BREAK

At 11:05, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Appeal:

At 11:09, the SHRC facilitated the appeals of the fact-finding and recommendations from Central Region LHRC in the matter of A.K. vs Gateway Homes, Inc #1 and #2. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding. Will Childers also informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

The Individual presented virtually. Cate Powell, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, presented in person on behalf of Gateway Homes, Inc. In agreement with the preference of the Individual, the committee decided to review the two appeals in closed session.

At 11:12, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and John Shepherd 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) (8) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, discussion of their medical records, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 12:27, upon a motion by John Shepherd and Renee Valdez 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of A.K. vs Gateway Homes, Inc. #1: to overturn Finding #1 of No Violation with a recommendation. John Shepherd 2nd. Motion passed with a vote of 6:1.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of A.K. vs Gateway Homes, Inc. #2: to uphold Findings #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 of No Violation, and determined No Violation for the undetermined Findings #6, 7, 8 and 13. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

LUNCH BREAK

At 12:29, Will Childers called for a break.

Interview:

At 1:02, the committee interviewed a potential candidate for the SHRC. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

At 1:04, Upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the SHRC convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 2:10, upon a motion by Renee Valdez and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

John Shepherd motioned, that based on the interview, the committee will move forward with recommending the candidate for membership. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #1. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #2. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #3. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #4. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #5. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #6. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #7. John Shepherd 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #8. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #9. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed with a vote of 5:2.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #10. John Shepherd 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of L.M on behalf of R.B v VersAbility Resources: to uphold Finding #11. Renee Valdez 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Adjournment

At 2:19, the August 14, 2025, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

September 25, 2025

Region 2