

## 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  
Betsy Lang  
Hampton



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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*Services*

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NELSON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

## State Human Rights Committee Meeting

### *Minutes*

**Thursday, October 23, 2025**

**9:00AM**

Timber Ridge School

1463 New Hope Rd

Cross Junction, VA 22625

[State Human Rights Committee Meeting - Region 1 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 246 589 438 527 4

Passcode: Ww7C73Sj

### Convene

**9:00 a.m.**

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

**SHRC Members Attending Virtually** Renee Valdez

**SHRC Members Absent**

**Staff Present Physically** Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director  
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, OHR  
Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR  
Cassie Purtlebaugh, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 1  
Artea Ambrose, Human Rights Advocate, Region 1  
Heather Hilleary, Human Rights Advocate, Region 1

**Staff Attending Virtually** Bryan Columbus, Assistant Admin to Operations, OHR  
Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Rights Manager, Facility Ops  
Riley Curran, Human Rights Advocate, Facility  
Lashanique Green, Human Rights Advocate, Facility  
Rachel Cornett, Social Worker, Eastern State Hospital (ESH), DBHDS

**Others Attending in Person** Derek Unger, CEO, Timber Ridge School (TRS)  
Juli Ferrell, Chief Development Officer, TRS  
Adam Collis, COO, TRS

**Others Attending Virtually** Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC  
Teresa Smith, Healthcare Compliance Unit Manager, Office of the Inspector General (OSIG)  
George Newsome, MHA, CEO, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA)  
Stephen O'Brien, LCSW, Chief Clinical Officer, CCCA  
John Glaze, Legal Guardian  
Karn Glaze, Legal Guardian  
QG, Individual

**Call to Order** At 9:03, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the October 23, 2025, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.

**Approval of Agenda** At 9:05, the committee considered the agenda. Betty Crance motioned for approval. Kimberly Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda was approved, unanimously.

**Review of Draft Minutes** At 9:06, the committee considered the draft minutes from the September 25, 2025 meeting. Bruce Ellsworth motioned for approval. Renee Valdez 2<sup>nd</sup>. The draft minutes were approved, unanimously.

**Welcome and Overview:** At 9:07, Derek Unger, CEO, welcomed and thanked the committee for allowing Timber Ridge School (TRS) to host the meeting. TRS was established in 1977, operating as a psychiatric mental health and substance abuse facility for male adolescents aging from 11-17 years of age. They admit adolescents from West Virginia and several surrounding counties in the area. In addition to services licensed by the Department of Education and DBHDS, TRS offers sports programs; basketball, football, wrestling and track. In 2021-2022, TRS also conducted a big campaign for their CTE program with the assistance of Juli Ferrell, Chief Development Officer and they are now able to offer trade programs such as Residential Construction, Carpeting, Welding and Forklift.

Derek Unger stated that the goal is to “shorten the bridge” from being dependent to becoming independent.

**Tour Debrief:** At 9:10, the committee discussed the tour on October 22, 2025, at Timber Ridge School (TRS). The committee showed great gratitude to the staff and were blown away by the campus structure. They enjoyed the interaction with the children along with watching the staff communicate with the children. It was meaningful to know that the children are being treated with dignity through individualized care and having privacy while rooming with others. They spoke about the CTE Trades Academy and how they were able to see the equipment, speak to the coordinator and how important it is to have these technical and sports programs to give the children a sense of normalcy.

**Public Comment:** At 9:23, Will Childers announced the public comment period. Derek Unger gave a comment regarding a proposal to develop a joint task force on studying adolescent human rights, especially in residential care settings, and offered to assist by providing data, and to work with representatives from the Office of Human Rights and other residential service providers.

***BREAK*** At 9:26, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Appeal:** At 9:35, the SHRC facilitated the appeals of the fact-finding and recommendations from Staunton Area LHRC in the matter of LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA), #1 CHRIS Report 20250017 and #2 CHRIS Report 20250024. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding. Will Childers also inform the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

John and Karn Glaze, Legal Guardians of the individual AG, presented virtually on behalf of the Individual. Geroge Newsome, CEO, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents presented virtually on behalf of the facility. In agreement with the preference of the Legal Guardians, the committee decided to review the two appeals in open session.

At 10:43, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Kimberly Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup>, the committee convened for deliberation 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 11:27, upon a motion by Betty Crance and Bruce Ellsworth 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) #1 CHRIS Report 20250017: to overturn Finding #1. Betty Crance 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) #1 CHRIS Report 20250017: to overturn Finding #2 with a recommendation. Betty Crance 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) #1 CHRIS Report 20250017: to uphold Finding #3 with a recommendation. Betty Crance 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) #2 CHRIS Report 20250024: to uphold Finding #1 with a recommendation. Bruce Ellsworth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed, unanimously.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of LG on behalf of A.G v Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) #2 CHRIS Report 20250024: to uphold Finding #2 with a recommendation. Betty Crance 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed, unanimously.

**Extension  
Request:**

At 11:56, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of two timeframe extension requests made by Q.G., an individual receiving services from Eastern State Hospital. Taneika Goldman outlined the relevant Human Rights Regulations and explained that even though the decision would be noted in the meeting minutes, the Human Rights Advocate would inform the provider of the decision directly. The individual was virtually present to observe and hear the decision. Betty Crance motioned to deny the extension request for Complaint 20250451 for lack of good cause. Bruce Ellsworth 2<sup>nd</sup>. The extension request was denied, unanimously.

Betty Crance motioned to approve the extension request for Complaints 20250065, 20250083, and 20250085. Kimberly Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup>. The extension request was approved, unanimously.

***BREAK***

At 12:05, Will Childers called for a brief break.

**Extension  
Request**

At 12:21, the committee discussed the creation of an extension request subcommittee. Taneika Goldman gave insight into why this subcommittee is needed and the initial hesitation related to whether such a subcommittee could resolve the current problem with committees reviewing and

<b>Subcommittee Discussion:</b>	deciding on the request timely. She detailed the advantages and disadvantages of the development and outlined the SHRC Bylaws. She will work with Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC, to finalize the decision.
<b>SHRC Calendar Review:</b>	<p>At 12:42, the committee worked through the new meeting schedule for 2026.</p> <p>Taneika Goldman asked the committee to review the Workplan Objectives.</p> <p>Taneika Goldman discussed the 2024 SHRC Annual Report of Activities. Once finalized, the report will be published to the Office of Human Rights webpage. Taneika Goldman and Will Childers will present the Annual Report during the State Board Meeting on December 10.</p>
<b>Subcommittees:</b>	At 1:18, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.
SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup	The SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup had nothing to report. Taneika Goldman relayed that staff have developed new LHRC review forms that will be rolled out to everyone during the OHR All Staff Meeting next week. The staff has been working to change documentation to make it more user friendly. She also shared new flyers with QR codes that are intended to promote the mission and accessibility of the Office in the community.
Policy Subcommittees	The Policy Subcommittee had nothing to report.
Membership Subcommittee	The Membership Subcommittee had nothing to report.
Max Appeal Subcommittee	The Max Appeal Subcommittee had nothing to report. Will Childers acknowledged the team for making the process easier to review the Max Appeal documents.
Officer Nominating Subcommittee	The Officer Nominating Subcommittee had nothing to report.
<b>Adjournment</b>	At 1:20, the October 23, 2025, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

#### **Next Meeting**

December 11, 2025  
Region 5