

CENTRAL REGION LHRC

Approved Minutes

January 21, 2026

9:30AM

7810 Winterpock Road Chesterfield, VA 23832

Members Present:

Bonnie Greene, Vice-Chairperson

Deborah Greene, Member

Wanagwa Mkandawire, Member

Dr. Robyn Clark Scott, Member

Members Virtual

Charita Threatt, Secretary, Chesterfield County virtual

Members Absent

Edward Helton, Chairperson

Others Present

Bridgette Bland, Office of Human Rights Region 4

Taneika Gilbert, Office of Human Rights Region 4

Andrea Milhouse, Office of Human Rights Region 4 Regional Advocate, virtual

Tichi Pinkney-Eppes, Community Member

Dr. Nancy Gee, Virginia Commonwealth University Health

Laura Chitwood, Counseling and Advocacy Associates

Sara Beth White, DePaul Community Resources

CALL TO ORDER

Bonnie Greene, Vice-Chairperson, called meeting to order at 9:42am January 21, 2026 meeting. We do have a quorum for today's meeting. Charita Threatt, Virtually. Vice-Chairperson recognized Charita Threatt and requested information related to attending virtually. Charita Threatt explained that her relief had not come to the group home at

that time and she would not be able to leave. Charita acknowledged that she was in a quiet area to protect the confidentiality of information discussed.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE

Introductions were made by all present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A change was noted to the agenda to change the date from 2025 to 2026.

Deborah Greene made a motion to approve the agenda with changes and was seconded by Charita Threatt. The motion was unanimously approved by all committee members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 19, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Deborah Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robyn Clark Scott. The motion was unanimously approved by all committee members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tichi Pinkney-Eppes, Community Member, spoke about challenges regarding the complaint resolution process. Identifying issues with individuals, giving complaints via phone, having the complaint transcribed and then sent to the agency for response. Ms. Pinkney-Eppes identified that the individual never got a copy of the complaint. The agency was given an extension, and the individual was not given that information. Once the agency concluded the investigation, a letter was sent just stating one line, “unfounded.” The individual has submitted a statement of disagreement, but the process has become cumbersome with responding to something they don’t have a copy of. Ms. Pinkney-Eppes identified that the individual has had some health challenges which has slowed the process. Ms. Pinkney-Eppes identified that the submission of documents has also been challenging due to the agency only using one type of platform. She identified that she would like the committee to consider all the challenges that the individual and his representatives have had with the process when reviewing the request for an extension that has been submitted.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

Read by Bridgette Bland

ANE Complaints CSB/Providers	
Q3 (FY2025)	Q4 (FY2025)

July 1 – September 30	October 1- December 31
463 reported	491 reported
Substantiated = 136	Substantiated = 135
Non-ANE Complaints CSB/Providers	
Q3 (FY2025) July 1 – September 30	Q4 (FY2025) October 1- December 31
92 Reported	68 Reported
Violation Found = 14	Violation Found = 6

Variations

There are currently no variations for community-based providers in Region 4.

Updates:

With the transition of the new administration, previous DBHDS Commissioner Nelson Smith highlighted many initiatives that were developed under Governor Youngkin. Such as: 988 becoming a true lifeline connecting tens of thousands of Virginians to care when they are struggling, handling over 36,500 calls, chats and texts in October alone.

- Expanding mobile crisis from 36 to 110 teams and completing nearly 60,000 dispatches last year. Mobile crisis teams statewide currently average 46 minutes to respond.
- Building 460 beds and chairs in crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization centers statewide, with over 300 more units in development.
- Fentanyl overdose deaths are down 46% from their peak in 2021, and Virginia is now a national leader in overdose reduction.
- The expansion of co-response programs and SCOPs, providing a behavioral health response to behavioral health crises and relieving the burden on law enforcement
- The expansion of ACT teams, VMAP, APAL, and school based mental health services.
- 4,540 new DD waiver slots, raising our statewide capacity from about 16,900 to over 21,400.

- A dramatic reduction in fentanyl overdose deaths thanks to the expansion of naloxone training and distribution, prevention and education, recovery supports, and the growth of peer recovery specialists into a recognized workforce.
- Real on-ramps to behavioral health careers and better pay for support staff.
- And system innovation through Medicaid behavioral health redesign.

He states, "Behind every one of those stats and programs are lives changed and lives saved, families and loved ones with more resources and peace of mind, communities strengthened, and, importantly, a behavioral health and developmental services workforce that made all of this possible."

Daryl Washington has been named the new DBHDS Commissioner. Mr. Washington brings experience from Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and brings deep knowledge of Virginia's behavioral health system, strong relationships across the Commonwealth, and a well-earned reputation as a thoughtful and respected leader.

LHRC Training Offerings: Opportunities for training should occur during the Advocate Comment period of each LHRC meeting. If you have questions related to LHRC training, please contact your LHRC Advisor:

- New Member Orientation/Refresher: LHRC Composition and Responsibilities (includes Robert's Rules of Order) – Conducted via Teams w/OHR Training and Development Coordinator
- Complaints and Appeal Hearing Process (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- Overview of Human Rights Regulation (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- FOIA (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- LHRC Review Forms (Mandatory - **at least annually**)
- Behavioral Support Plan Review
- Dignity
- Research
- Authorized Representatives/Next Friend
- Variances

- Restrictions on Freedoms of Everyday Life

Upcoming Events

2026 training opportunities are available for Community-Based Providers on the OHR website.

[Resources for Licensed Providers - Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services \(DBHDS\)](#)

Upcoming 2025 SHRC Meetings

Next Meeting: March 5, 2026, Region 1 (Region Ten CSB, Charlottesville)

The SHRC is required to meet at least 8 times a year. Unless special circumstances apply, administrative sessions normally convene at 8:30AM. Regular sessions normally convene at 9:00AM and run until all agenda items are addressed. Portions of meetings are held in closed session. Appeals are normally scheduled for late morning.

Dates are subject to change based on weather conditions, availability of an in-person quorum of committee members and appropriate and accessible meeting locations.

Anyone may view and listen to open portions of any a Local or State Human Rights Committee meeting via the Microsoft Teams Webinar link for each specific meeting. This information is available on the [Commonwealth Calendar – Home \(virginia.gov\)](#) You can use the following steps to search for LHRC and SHRC meeting information on the

Commonwealth Calendar:

- *Select the date range for a meeting you are interested in.*
- *Select the Category for an "Open Meeting"*
- *Select the Sponsor as "Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of"*
- *Enter a specific name of an LHRC, or simply "LHRC" or "SHRC" as a Keyword to assist in your search.*

Any changes to the LHRC meeting schedule will be reflected on the Commonwealth Calendar and parties are encouraged to look at the meeting information on the Commonwealth Calendar prior to planning their attendance

Public Comments: Public comments will be received by the LHRC and SHRC during the public comment section noted on the meeting agenda. This generally occurs at the

beginning of the meeting. Any person seeking to make public comment may submit comments in writing by noon on the day before the meeting. Written comments directed to the LHRC should be submitted by email to the OHR staff person listed for that specific LHRC on the LHRC Meeting Schedule linked below. Written comments directed to the SHRC should be submitted by email to the SHRD by email to taneika.goldman@dbhds.virginia.gov. If the person who submitted the comment is not present at the meeting (in person or virtually), the OHR staff person or SHRD will read the comment for the record and a copy will be provided to the committee members.

For Providers: To add items to a specific LHRC agenda, please contact the OHR Staff person listed for that specific LHRC. Please note that the agenda deadline is two weeks prior to the meeting date.

- [2026 LHRC Schedule per Region](#)
- [2026 SHRC Meeting Schedule](#)

Bridgette Bland completed LHRC training. Topic: LHRC Review Forms: Restrictions and Behavioral Treatment Plans

OLD BUSINESS

a. Human Research Review- VCU HSA- Update

Dr. Nancy Gee presented an update regarding the human research review that was approved by the LHRC in August 2023. The committee reviewed the results and asked questions.

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion made by Deborah Greene and seconded by Dr. Robyn Clark Scott, the committee entered closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, a.15 and §2.2-37.05.5 for the purpose of Restriction Reviews, LHRC Candidate Interview and Extension Request.

- a. Restriction Review: Counseling and Advocacy Associates
- b. Restriction Review: Counseling and Advocacy Associates

- c. Restriction Review: DePaul Community Resources
- d. Restriction Review: DePaul Community Resources
- e. Restriction Review: DePaul Community Resources
- f. Restriction Review: DePaul Community Resources
- g. LHRC Candidate Interview
- h. Request for Extension for Fact-Finding Review 150(E)
- i. Fact-Finding Review Petitioner v. Poplar Springs Hospital request move to February 18, 2026 meeting

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion made by Charita Threatt and seconded by Dr. Robyn Clark Scott the committee returned to open session at 12:30PM. 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, namely, Restriction Reviews, LHRC Candidate Interview and Extension Request.

The committee reviewed and approved the restriction review of Counseling and Advocacy Associates with a recommendation that the provider update the written audio/visual policy to include consent for DBHDS, LHRC, SHRC, Law Enforcement, and APS to review footage as needed. The committee requested an update. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed and approved the restriction review of Counseling and Advocacy Associates with a recommendation that the provider update the written audio/visual policy to include consent for DBHDS, LHRC, SHRC, Law Enforcement, and APS to review footage as needed. The committee requested an update. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed DePaul Community Resources Restriction Review for Individual #1. The committee identified the provider implemented the restrictions prior to LHRC approval and has been using the restrictions for six months. This is a violation of the regulation HRR12VAC35-115-100(B)(5). The committee voted to approve the restrictions requested. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed DePaul Community Resources Restriction Review for Individual #2. The committee identified the provider implemented the restrictions prior to LHRC approval and has been using the restrictions for six months. This is a violation of the regulation HRR12VAC35-115-100(B)(5). The committee voted to approve the restrictions requested. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed DePaul Community Resources Restriction Review for Individual #3. The committee approved the restriction review with no recommendations. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed DePaul Community Resources Restriction Review for Individual #4. The committee approved the restriction review and provided recommendations for the provider to provide less restrictive methods to allow alternatives to audio/visual monitoring and for the individual to have the option for privacy. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee unanimously voted to appoint the LHRC candidate.

The committee approved the Extension Request for Fact-Finding Review and identified all supporting documents and the statement of disagreement will be due on 1/30/26. The matter will be heard on February 18, 2026, and the next Central Region LHRC meeting. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee approved Fact-Finding Review Petitioner v. Poplar Springs Hospital be heard on February 18, 2026 during the next scheduled meeting as this would be outside of the regulatory process. The committee vote was unanimous.

The committee discussed the appointment of a new Chair and Vice-Chair at the May 2026 meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon a motion made by Charita Threatt and seconded by Dr. Robyn Clark Scott, the meeting adjourned at 12:32pm. Next regular meeting will be held on February 18, 2026, at 9:30am at 7810 Winterpock Road Chesterfield, Va. 23832.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charita Threatt, Secretary

Central Region Local Human Rights Committee