

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

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental

Services

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DARYL WASHINGTON, LCSW, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 2026

8:30AM

Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR)

4901 E Patrick Henry Hwy

Burkeville, VA 23922

[State Human Rights Committee - Region 4 | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 251 156 195 029 40

Passcode: 74aJ6Sa7

Convene

8:30 a.m.

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

SHRC Members Attending Virtually

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
Tony Davis, Human Rights Advocate, Facility Ops
Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 4
Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Jason Wilson, Facility Director, Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR)
Dr. Brittany Bak, Clinical Director, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH)

Staff Attending Virtually Brandon Charles, Sr. Human Rights Manager, Facility Operations
Mandy Crowder, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 3

Others Attending in Person	Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC
Others Attending Virtually	Sherri Erhard, Guardianship Specialist, Commonwealth Catholic Charities/ Henric CSB Margaret Gonzalez, Student, Catholic University of America Chris Taylor, Executive Director, New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) Ashley Wilson, Client Advocate, NRVCS Michael Triggs, Chief Executive Officer, Poplar Springs Hospital Quian Price, Associate Administrator, Poplar Springs Hospital Amber Nesbitt, Director of Risk Management, Poplar Springs Hospital Sheona Tibbs-Morton, Patient Advocate, Poplar Springs Hospital JF, Individual
Call to Order	At 8:36, Will Childers, SHRC Chair, called the April 9, 2026, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.
Approval of Agenda	At 8:37, the committee considered the agenda. Taneika Goldman acknowledged the supplemental documents given to the committee for the meeting: draft Bylaws, appeal hearing outline and a letter from a VCBR resident. Betsy Lang motioned for approval. Bruce Ellsworth 2 nd . The agenda was approved, unanimously.
Review of Draft Minutes	At 8:38, the committee considered the draft minutes from the March 5, 2026, meeting. Betty Crance motioned for approval. Kimberly Hunt 2 nd . The draft minutes were approved, unanimously.
Welcome and Overview:	At 8:40, Dr. Brittany Bak, Clinical Director, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH) gave an overview of services of the facility. PGH is the only facility within DBHDS that service 65 and older. It was built originally as the Piedmont Sanatorium for African American patients that were diagnosed with tuberculosis. PGH current functions as a 123-bed geriatric facility, 2/3 of the patients fall under the civil commitment statute. They serve Regions 1, 2, 4 and part of Region 3 and receive referrals from all 40 Community Service Boards. They offer a full range of clinical services that include psychiatry, family and internal medicine, neuroscience, psychology, social work, and psychosocial therapy. PGH mission is to provide recovery based mental health services to enable older adults to thrive in the community.
Request to Extend Timeframes:	At 9:15, Taneika Goldman informed the committee of a timeframe extension request for the Appeal Findings in the matter of CR v WMC, TVS v Poplar Springs Hospital and AG v CCCA due to

an administrative delay of the findings not being finalized. John Shepherd motioned for approval. Betsy Lang 2nd. The extension requests were approved, unanimously.

The committee reviewed the draft SHRC Bylaws with adjustments to Sections 2, 5, 6 and 7. Changes were made to further define the responsibilities of a Secretary, identify a process for breaking a tie vote and implement a subcommittee to review requests for time-frame extensions. Renee Valdez motioned to approve the amended Bylaws. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. The Bylaws were approved, unanimously.

The committee reviewed/acknowledged a letter from a VCBR resident that was mailed to Central Office and addressed to them.

Public Comment: At 9:31, Will Childers announced the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Tour Debrief: At 9:32, the committee discussed the tour on April 8, 2026, at VCBR. The committee led with the fact that first and foremost the staff were observed to be very kind to the residents within the facility. The committee got to visit the transitional unit and a secure unit; vividly seeing the difference between the two. Committee members appreciated seeing the common area that offered a library, barbershop/hair salon, convenience store, etc. that was designed to mimic the outside world.

The committee also met with the Resident Advisory Committee (RAC) at the end of the tour.

VCBR Report: At 9:45, Tony Davis presented the annual advocate's report on human rights complaints, the use of restraint and other noted human rights activities involving VCBR for Feb 2025 – Feb 2026.

Taneika Goldman presented the annual variance update for VCBR.

BREAK At 9:55, Will Childers called for a brief break.

Appeal: At 10:03, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the Fact-Finding and Recommendations from Roanoke-Catawba LHRC in the matter of JF v New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS). 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. Ashley Wilson, Client Advocate, NRVCS presented virtually on behalf of the provider. The committee decided to review the appeal in closed session out of concern for the preservation of all involved individuals' privacy and confidentiality.

At 10:08, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the committee and parties to the appeal 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, and discussion of their medical and mental health records and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 10:34, upon a motion by Betsy Lang, and John Shepherd 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 JF v New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS): to uphold Finding #1. Kimberly Hunt 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, unanimously.

**LHRC Liaison
Reporting:**

At 10:36, the SHRC considered LHRC liaison reporting.
Betsy Lang stated that she attended an LHRC meeting in Region 5.

LHRC Business:

Taneika Goldman presented the Williamsburg Regional, Northwestern Area and Southeast Alliance LHRC appointment recommendations and one resignation.

Betsy Lang motioned to approve the appointments and resignation for LHRC memberships.
Kimberly Hunt 2nd. Motion passed.

Facility

Williamsburg Regional LHRC
Sharlee Rodriguez – Appt
Melissa South – Resign

Region 1

Northwestern Area LHRC
Deanna Rennon – Appt
Amber Day - Appt

Region 5

Southeast Alliance LHRC
Wanda Scarbough – Appt

BREAK

At 10:40, the committee took a brief break.

Subcommittees: At 10:46, the SHRC considered reports from the subcommittees.

Officer Nominating Subcommittee: Betsy Lang presented the slate of officers and motioned for John Shepherd and Renee Valdez to become Chair and Vice Chair along with Kimberly Hunt becoming Secretary. Betty Crance 2nd. Motion passed. Taneika Goldman acknowledged that officer terms take effect July 1.

Membership Subcommittee: Will Childers stated that there would be an applicant interviewed at the May 2026 meeting.

SHRC Appeals Procedures Workgroup: John Shepherd opened a conversation about how the appeals (SHRC Final Determination) process could be easier and right to the point for everyone to review. Certain ideas to think about: criteria for granting extensions, criteria on limits on rehearing duplicate issues from individuals already settled by the SHRC and solidifying the outline of the appeals by starting with the complaint and the specific regulations that are up for discussion. This will help with staying on the topic of the appeal decision.

Appeal:

At 11:04, the SHRC facilitated the appeals of the Fact-Finding and Recommendations from Central Region LHRC in the matter of SM v Poplar Springs Hospital. 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.

Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, presented in person on behalf of the Individual. Michael Triggs, Chief Executive Officer, Poplar Springs Hospital, presented virtually on behalf of the provider. The committee decided to review the appeal in closed session out of concern for the preservation of all involved individuals' privacy and confidentiality.

At 11:08, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Christopher Olivo 2nd, the committee and parties to the appeal 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, and discussion of their medical and mental health records and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 12:11, upon a motion by Betsy Lang, and John Shepherd 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 SM v Poplar Springs Hospital: to uphold Finding #1. Betty Crance 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:1.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of SM v Poplar Springs Hospital: to uphold Finding #2. Renee Valdez 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:1.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of SM v Poplar Springs Hospital: to uphold Finding #3. Betty Crance 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:1.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of SM v Poplar Springs Hospital: to uphold Finding #4. Renee Valdez 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:1.

BREAK

At 12:16, the committee took a brief lunch break.

SHRC Interview:

At 12:20, the committee interviewed a potential candidate for the SHRC. A call for introductions took place by Will Childers prior to proceeding.

At 12:23, upon a motion by Betsy Lang, and Kimberly Hunt 2nd, the committee convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (8) and (16), for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment or removal to a public body.

At 1:02, upon a motion by Betty Crance and Betsy Lang 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.

Betsy Lang motioned, that based on the interview, the committee move forward with recommending the candidate to the DBHDS state board for membership on the SHRC. Betty Crance 2nd. Motion passed, unanimously.

Community of
Practice Re: HHR
for Children &
Youth

Taneika Goldman informed the committee that she met with Rebecca Laubach and identified four data points that are needed for review to inform the work of this subcommittee. She continues to coordinate with Timber Ridge School regarding stakeholders and the new leadership at DBHDS has expressed support and interest.

Max Appeal Subcommittee	There are twenty-five outstanding Max Appeals: twenty-three from VCBR and two from CSH. A letter of communication was sent out to individuals explaining the backlog and asking whether or not they would like to continue to move forward. To date three responses received to move forward, the deadline for a decision is April 10 th .
Other:	Taneika Goldman informed the committee that the next meeting will be held at the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) in Richmond. She stated that the new Commissioner, Daryl Washington, does plan to attend a meeting but is not fully sure if it will be in May. .
Adjournment	At 1:10, the April 9, 2026, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
May 21, 2026
disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)
Region 4