

METROPOLITAN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES – Draft

January 22, 2026

9:30 a.m.

A subcommittee was established by the LHRC chairperson to hear business matters for the Commonwealth.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pamela Jones, Secretary

Nikki Goode, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sherae Henderson, Chair (recused)

Mark Smallacombe, Vice Chair

Kiva Gatewood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Amaya Henderson, Advocate/Technical Advisor

Bridget Bland, Advocate/Technical Advisor

Tomeka Gilbert, Advocate

Andrea Milhouse, Advocate (virtual reviewer)

CALL TO ORDER

Pamela Jones, called the meeting to order at 9:41 am.

Introductions were made by all present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members reviewed the agenda but due to no quorum present, just noted that they didn't have any changes to recommend at the March meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the minutes but due to no quorum present, just noted that they didn't have any changes to recommend at the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADVOCATE REPORT AND TRAINING

Tomeka Gilbert presented the advocate's report.

ANE Complaints CSB/Providers	
Q3 (FY2025) July 1 – September 30	Q4 (FY2025) 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](#)

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

The committee held a fact-finding hearing - Petitioner vs. Chesterfield Community Services Board.

Mr. & Ms. Moore, legal guardians, presented as the Petitioner.

Douglas Bilski, Asst Director, Clinical & Preventions services; Julie Kirkendall Cox, Program Manager, Access & Emergency Services; and Katharine Kerr, Supervisor of Emergency Services presented for Chesterfield Community Service Board. After the committee explained the right to conduct a closed or open session, Ms. Moore elected to hold an open fact-finding review.

Ms. Moore and the Chesterfield Community Services Board representatives presented their facts, closing statements and answered questions from the committee.

The committee explained that due to a lack of a quorum present, the committee members would present the information to the full committee at the next meeting (March 26, 2026) and then a determination would be made, and they would be informed of the decision. The participants of the hearing were then dismissed.

The committee then welcomed Maria Nojaim and conducted an interview for possible appointment to the Metropolitan LHRC.

Pascal Thebaud with Independent Homes, Inc. presented a request for Restrictions to Dignity and Freedoms of Everyday Life. The committee members heard the request, asked pertinent questions and explained that the information would be shared with the full committee at the March 26, 2026, meeting for discussion and determination.

Pamela Jones called closed session at 10:53 am. This was necessary to discuss the information that was brought to the committee and make recommendations to submit to the full committee at the March 26, 2026 meeting. Closed session ended at 12:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING

March 26, 2026

Future 2026 Meeting dates:

June 25, 2026

December 10, 2026

(Additional meeting options of April 23, 2026 and October 22, 2026)

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned by Pamela Jones at 12:06 pm.

Please note: No confidential information shall be included in the minutes, and all steps should be taken to maintain individuals' privacy.

This template has been updated to the new regulations effective 11/1/18.