

**HCRS JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Springfield, Vermont
December 2, 2014**

Present: HCRS Staff: George Karabakakis, CEO (Facilitator), Will Shakespeare, Bill Metcalfe, Katherine Cook, Wendy Smith, Karon Eagles, Susan Hennessey, and Crystal Morey
Client/Community Representation: K. Beach, P. Morse, G. Zdunek, W. Verboncoeur, Y. McNeil, Z. Connors, D. Slade, B. Gagliardi, D. McLardy, and S. Haines
Board Representation: Sarah Carter

Present by Video Conferencing: Brattleboro Elm – Lori Lintner, Mike, Marty, Emma, and Annie
Hartford Office: Brad Sewall, P. Charpentier, and Mary D.

Welcome: At 12:10 PM, George Karabakakis, Chief Executive Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made including those participating via video conferencing.

Joint Standing Committee Minutes: The September 9, 2014 Joint Standing Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written with a couple of minor changes. These minutes will be posted to the HCRS Internet Site. The Internet website is: www.hcrs.org.

CEO Update: George Karabakakis, CEO provided an update on the state of the Agency. There are some challenges the Agency may face, but he is unclear on what those challenges will be just yet. At the Governor's Office, there isn't as much money as previously noted. However, there are many people advocating at the state level. George also noted that the focus of the agency is to continue promoting a culture of health. The focus will be on access to services, communication, improving staff morale, better business practices, incl. technology improvements, quality of services, and staff and community engagement.

HCRS held its Annual Meeting on November 20th, which included a documentary about the life, challenges, and success stories of our clients in their respective programs. It was a huge success, and George has been told by many, it's been the best one yet. The documentary will be uploaded to the HCRS website and George will let folks know when it has been done. Annual reports will be available to those who would like one.

George announced two new Board Members at HCRS. Welcome James Paradis and Diana Slade.

Client Satisfaction Survey: HCRS is beginning to work on the annual Client Satisfaction Survey with some additional new questions being added this year. HCRS will be comparing previous years and will be going out some time in February.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Children's Standing Committee: The Children's Standing Committee continues to re-group and look at ways in which to revamp the committee, to provide better services, and to bridge the gap in communication between schools, the agency, and parents. While membership is down, the group is actively recruiting new members and will meet next week. Sue Hennessey is still an active member in the Children's Standing Committee and has recently come out of retirement to work on initiatives in the Springfield Community. Will shared that Donna Burns, Crisis Community Supports Specialist met with Jeannie Spafford's group to talk about the program she runs at HCRS. Additionally, Will reported

the Children's Program had a DMH Audit of Services and he is still awaiting the results. Will plans to report back at a later date. The Children's Program has been working with Lynn Boyle on a housing initiative and Will was happy to report the wait lists are almost to zero. All in all things are moving along nicely.

DS Standing Committee and Program Update: Bill Metcalfe, DS Director, provided an update on the Developmental Services Standing Committee. In October, HCRS sent four DS clients and three staff to the National Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) conference in Oklahoma City held on October 8-12, 2014.

Bill reiterated that James Paradis is officially a member of the HCRS Board of Directors, formerly chair of the DS Standing Committee. The team wishes him well in his new role.

The 9th Annual Thanksgiving dinner was held at the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls. About 155 people attended – 90 consumers, 30 SLP's, with the remainder being staff. Clients got up and spoke and shared what they were thankful for.

Members of the DS Standing Committee voted to hold their regular meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. Caroline was voted in as the new chairperson of this committee. Bill reports there are still some vacant spots that need to be filled. Community supports will be discussed at the next few standing committees to enhance the DS program.

Bill talked about the Special Olympics team at HCRS for basketball. Practices will begin in January/February with a tournament scheduled for April. He also mentioned the need for volunteers and if anyone is interested in helping, they should contact him.

Adult Standing Committee and Program Update: Phil C., Chair provided an update on what is happening at the Adult Standing Committee meetings. The group is moving forward in a positive direction. They are still looking for new members. Phil recently spoke with the Aquatic Center regarding use of the pool for clients suffering from depression.

Domestic Violence prevention through the courts was written about in the Corrections Newsletter. It has been a valuable experience for clients who have mentioned they feel safe.

The PRC is not open 3x a week yet. Information will be forthcoming, but a suggestion was made to rename the PRC the "Community Space". The next Adult Standing Committee is scheduled for January and further discussion will take place then. There is some discussion happening around creating a peer like space in the Brattleboro areas as well. Members of the group would like Malaika Puffer or Jen Marandino to reach out to the group to address the PRC issue.

Phil wanted to take a moment to congratulate Diana Slade for her appointment to the Board.

Transportation is being explored with Bill Brown and Hal Moore, CFO. A follow up will be provided at a later date.

Next meeting: The next Joint Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Minutes by Crystal Morey, Recorder