

**HCRS JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Springfield, Vermont  
December 2, 2015**

**Present:** HCRS Staff: George Karabakakis (Facilitator), Lori Lintner, Will Shakespeare, Karon Eagles, Susan Hennessey, Wendy Smith, Malaika Puffer, and Crystal Morey  
Client/Community Representation: Yvonne McNeil, Chrissy Cheney, Diana McLardy, Louise Machado, Linda Tyler, Sherry Haines, Katie Beach,  
Board Representation: Sarah Carter and Diana Slade

**Present by Video Conferencing:** Hartford Office: Brad Sewall, Matt Stahley, Mike Thibideau, Kathy Hook, Phil Charpentier, and four clients

**Welcome:** At 12:15 PM, George Karabakakis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made including those participating via video conferencing.

**Joint Standing Committee Minutes:** The September 1, 2015 Joint Standing Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written. These minutes will be posted to the HCRS Internet Site. The Internet website is: [www.hcrs.org](http://www.hcrs.org).

**CEO Update:** George Karabakakis, CEO provided an update on the status of the agency. George and the Senior Leadership team will be holding two legislative breakfasts this week. The first breakfast will be held this Wednesday at the Springfield office and then again on Thursday at the Brattleboro Fairview Street office, both from 7:30 – 9:00 AM. All members are invited to attend to share their own stories and discuss the funding challenges ahead. HCRS is asking for a 3% increase from the state to make sure there is enough money to provide funding for waivers, etc. George noted it would be great to have the Legislators hear what kind of impact we have on our clients.

George announced that 12 positions were eliminated in order to put HCRS on the road towards a solid financial footing. These eliminations impacted some direct service staff as well as support services staff (HR, Finance, QA, IT, Administrative Support). George noted that he and SLT tried everything possible to limit the impact on direct services.

The HCRS Annual Meeting was held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Springfield office. Over 130 Board members, staff, community members, and clients attended the meeting. It was a great event that highlighted the many programs and services offered and the impact our staff have on the lives of individuals we serve. George noted it was a great reminder about why we are here.

George will be holding “Lunches with George” at all of the main sites starting the first week of December. These will occur every three months as a way for staff to ask questions, share concerns, or simply listen.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Children’s Standing Committee:** Chrissy Cheney, Children’s Standing Committee chair provided an update on what’s happening in the Committee. They continue to meet and have discussed what it looks like when a member takes a temporary leave of absence. They are working on creating a pamphlet that details the description of services and the work that is being done in Children’s Program. They would like to gather more information about the services that are provided before it’s finalized. Chrissy also shared they are reviewing the HIPAA laws, core requirements, and the client orientation manual.

She noted that some of the members feel the manual is a bit overwhelming and they would somehow like a more simplified and broken down version. Effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, the respite program made a change in how they provide overnight respite in conformance with the Department of Labor Laws for Home Care workers. All overnight respite providers will become employees of HCRS. This is a significant change from the daily rate we were providing.

**Adult Standing Committee:** The Adult Standing Committee will hold their holiday party on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 in Springfield. It will be potluck and for committee members only. The committee is creating a brochure and are looking for volunteers to be in the photo. They are also participating in the review of HCRS' no-show cancellation policy that is currently being revised. Malaika and Grace are conducting a survey to see if there is a renewed interest in developing/reviving a warm line.

An InShape training will be happening in March provided by Ken Jue Consulting and its InShape training team. It's an evidence-based practice that operationalizes the Recovery philosophy and advances social inclusion and community engagement. Ken and his team will provide a 4-day comprehensive training in mental health, research, nutrition, fitness, community engagement, and sustainability. A "Save the Date" flyer will be send out soon.

New members were recently voted in. The HCRS Adult Standing Committee is the largest in the state and have the highest attendance record of all the DA's.

Lots of new things are happening in the LEC. A Hearing Voices group will be starting this Friday and a cookie swap will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's open to any adult involved in HCRS starting at noon.

**Developmental Services Standing Committee:** The last Developmental Services Standing committee was held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween dance – the Spooky Spectacular Dance was held at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge. With support from self-advocates, families, and providers, they raised \$279 which will help defer the costs of conferences for staff and clients. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the DS Program hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls. Thanks to an anonymous donor, this year's dinner was free for all attendees. A big thank you to Tammy Maberry who started this event 10 years ago and continues to keep it going.

The group is gearing up for Special Olympics basketball this year and are hoping to have team practices at the Vermont Academy in Saxtons River. The details are still being worked out. Volunteers are also needed, so if anyone is interested, please reach out to Christine Boothby at ext. 2280.

The Reach program is flourishing at all sites and clients and staff continue to brainstorm about winter activities and things to do with their peers.

Hiromi Komura, DS Service Coordinator has retired after 16 years of service.

**Next meeting:** The next Joint Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

*Minutes by Crystal Morey, Recorder*