

**HCRS JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Springfield, Vermont
March 3, 2015**

Present: HCRS Staff: George Karabakakis (Facilitator), Bill Metcalfe, Lori Lintner, Katherine Cook, Will Shakespeare, Karon Eagles, Wendy Smith, Sue Hennessey, and Crystal Morey
Client/Community Representation: L. Machado, M. Veale, S. Haines, W. Verboncoeur, G. Zdunek, K. Beach
Board Representation: Sarah Carter and Diana Slade

Present by Video Conferencing: Hartford Office: Brad Sewall, Colleen Borys, K. Hook, P. 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 December 2, 2014 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.

CEO Update: George Karabakakis, CEO announced that the Legislature is back in session for 2015. The state faces an unexpected shortfall in this year's budget and that will be a top issue this year. The Legislative staff are working on a budget that will be presented soon, but there may be cuts in mental health that could possibly impact the Agency. However, George noted there is a lot of advocacy going on in support of mental health services across the state and HCRS is trying to avoid any significant impact to clients and families.

George has been meeting with staff across the Agency to hold "Lunches with George" as a way to open up a dialog between leadership and staff. Many staff have commented they appreciate the opportunity to get their voices heard.

Client Satisfaction Survey: The Client Satisfaction Survey has been out for three weeks and George is pleased with the amount of surveys collected so far. Final results will be presented to staff in April.

The group watched the HCRS documentary about the life, challenges, and success stories of our clients in their respective programs. The video has now been posted on the HCRS website at www.hcrs.org. Members shared their feedback and really enjoyed watching the video. The video was produced by Marlboro Productions.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Children's Standing Committee: Sue Hennessey provided an update on what's happening in the Children's Standing Committee. Jeannie Spafford recently attended one of their meetings to provide a CPI training for parents. The group continues to work on building their group back up and are very pleased to have Sarah Carter, HCRS Board of Directors serve on this committee. It's important to have a liaison and connection with the Board. Will Shakespeare, Children's Program Director also attended their last meeting and reviewed the System of Care Plan with the group.

DS Standing Committee and Program Update: Lori Lintner, DS Adult Services Manager provided an update on the Developmental Services Standing Committee. The group continues to meet monthly and is currently working on gathering Client Satisfaction Surveys for the DS Program. The re-designation process is under way and the group continues to work on that. They will be meeting again on Wednesday at noon.

On February 4th, self advocates participated in Disability Awareness Day in Montpelier. Nine clients and four staff attended to talk about what it would be like if funding was cut.

On March 18th, the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights (VCDR) is hosting Disability Awareness Day at the Vermont statehouse. The mission of VCDR is to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities to ensure full and equal participation in all aspects of community life and the political process. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the State House. The keynote speaker will be Andrew Imparato, Executive Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Various workshops will be offered throughout the day. Lori noted how important it is to be a presence there and shared the Governor will be giving a speech late morning.

The Blue Project, an event to promote autism awareness for the Brattleboro area community, will be held on Saturday, April 11 at the Latchis River Garden. The event is funded by HCRS' Golf Tournament for Autism Fundraisers.

The Vermont Autism Task Force will host the annual Autism Awareness Day on April 1 at the Vermont Statehouse. It will be an opportunity to meet with other people on the spectrum plus families, legislators, and state officials. Author and self-advocate Stephen Shore, Ph.D will be presenting "Unlimited Potential" at the State House Cafeteria.

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 currently reviewing the local system of care plan and creating a better means of communication between the community and peers. Some members would like to create a newsletter that is created by peers that could be disseminated to community members.

The Life Enrichment Center (formerly known as the PRC) will open the week of March 16th, three days a week from 9-2 on Mon, Thur, and Fri. Malaika Puffer will be running this program.

Members of Adult Standing Committee would like to work with the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center to incorporate health, wellness, and physical activity into their daily lives. Plans are being worked out to try and find ways to support ongoing wellness activities.

Members of this committee continue to discuss supportive housing projects as part of the system of care plan.

Next meeting: The next Joint Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Minutes by Crystal Morey, Recorder