

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

Present: HCRS Staff: George Karabakakis (Facilitator), Bill Metcalfe, Lori Lintner, Katherine Cook, Wendy Smith, Will Shakespeare, Karon Eagles, Sue Hennessey, and Crystal Morey **Client/Community Representation:** Brenda Tetreault, Zach Connors, Yvonne McNeil, Sherry Haines, Katie Beach, Diane McLardy, Chrissy Cheney, Louise Machado
HCRS Board of Directors Representation: Sarah Carter and Diana Slade

Present by Video Conferencing: Phil Charpentier

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

Joint Standing Committee Minutes: The March 3, 2015 Joint Standing Committee Meeting were approved previously at the individual Local Standing Committee meetings. These minutes have been posted to the HCRS Internet Site. The Internet website is: www.hcrs.org.

CEO Update: George provided an update on the status of the Agency. As many folks have read in the newspapers, there has been some negative publicity about HCRS in the news around the former CEO compensation package. George asked if anyone has any questions and/or concerns to contact him directly. Any and all decisions are made with our clients' best interest. He explained that HCRS staff continue to do remarkable work for the clients we serve. Phil shared his concerns around possible budget cuts, but George assured him that there are no current plans to make any cuts at this time, but there has been discussion around expanding services in a planned and thoughtful way. He proposed that the Joint Standing Committee be the forum to make suggestions and recommendations.

Program Updates:

Children's Program: Chrissy Cheney provided an update on what is happening in the Children's Standing Committee. They are still actively recruiting new members for their group and are looking at expanding the committee in different areas so that more people can come together. The group is also considering bringing back the mom's group. The name may change, but the details are still being worked out amongst members and they hope to have this in place by fall. A pamphlet will be created to describe what the mom's group is about and to advertise for participation.

Will also reiterated the need for new membership on this committee and noted if anyone is interested, to please contact Sue Hennessey. He also shared that some members have written letters to the senator requesting that services and funding not be cut and have written about the positive services that staff provide to clients.

Developmental Services: Lori Lintner provided an update for the DS Standing Committee. Every year, GMSA hosts a "Voices and Choices" Self-Advocacy Conference. The conference provides an opportunity for Vermonters with developmental disabilities, their families, providers, and allies to collectively learn about decision-making, self-advocacy, and relationships. This year staff and consumers attended this year's event in Burlington, VT where Bill Metcalfe, Developmental Services Director was awarded the annual Ally Award for outstanding contributions to promoting Green Mountain Self-Advocates across the state. In addition, two other HCRS staff and two consumers received awards as well. Congratulations to all!

The DS Standing committee also reviewed the results from the Client Satisfaction Survey and were happy with outcome. The results were great and clients couldn't be happier. The next DS Joint Standing Committee is scheduled for August 12, 2015.

The Blue Project was a huge success and everyone who attended had a great time. Clients are hoping that another event like this will happen again.

Adult Program: Katherine provided an update on what is happening in the Adult Standing Committee. New officers have been elected. Grace Z. is the new chair and Katie is now the new secretary. The LEC recently opened up again in Springfield and clients are able to attend on a regular basis. Folks would like to see something like this open in Hartford as a place for clients to get together.

The next Adult Standing Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on July 6th. A cookout will be held with HCRS providing the protein and all others bringing a dish to share. All are welcome to attend!

There is now a subcommittee of the Adult Standing Committee to discuss supported employment services.

Discussion also took place around creating a planning committee to start a memorial event for clients who have died due to suicide or other mental health issues. Grace will be leading this group.

The committee has also been talking about physical and mental health and coming up with ways to support physical health. The group is looking at some "in shape" models to bring to the agency, i.e bike groups, access to local gym memberships, etc. HCRS currently partners with Greater Rock Fitness allowing Hilltop clients passes to the gym.

George and Diana Slade attended the NAMI Conference last week. It was a great event!

There are three new members serving on the Adult Standing Committee. All members are encouraged to attend the meetings.

The Client Satisfaction Survey Results are being reviewed with the group. Results will be mailed this week.

There continues to be ongoing discussion with transportation. This issue will continue to be addressed at the meetings.

Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Minutes by Crystal Morey, Recorder