

STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

John Shepherd, Chairperson
Charlottesville
Renee F. Valdez, Vice-Chairperson
Alexandria
Kimberly Hunt, Secretary
Roanoke
Betty Crance
Fincastle
Christopher Olivo
Yorktown
D Bruce Ellsworth
Crozet
Betsy Lang
Hampton



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental

Services

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DARYL WASHINGTON, LCSW, COMMISSIONER

State Human Rights Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026

3:00PM

Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC)

1308 Sherwood Ave

Richmond, VA 23220

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b11751e4-15df-4495-98e4-f07d4417abd5@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Meeting ID: 272 745 728 850 477

Passcode: fi6yZ988

Convene

3:00 p.m.

SHRC Members Present Physically

John Shepherd, **Chair**, Renee Valdez, **Vice Chair**, Betty Crance, Christopher Olivo, Kimberly Hunt, Bruce Ellsworth, Betsy Lang

SHRC Members Attending Virtually

SHRC Members Absent

Staff Present Physically

Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director
Delisa Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant, OHR

Staff Attending Virtually

Mary Clair O'Hara, Associate Director for Quality and Compliance, OHR
Andrea Milhouse, Regional Human Rights Manager, Region 4
Bridgette Bland, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4
Kiersten Szymecki, Human Rights Advocate, Region 4

Others Attending in Person

Ashley Englehart, Compliance Supervisor, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA)
Nora Woodward, Advocate, RBHA
Jessica Charters, Compliance Specialist, RBHA

**Others Attending
Virtually**

Karen Taylor, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for the SHRC
DW, Individual
Michelle Williams- Mother of Individual
Tichie Eppes – Family Advocate

Call to Order

At 3:19, John Shepherd, SHRC Chair, called the July 16, 2026, SHRC meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting. A call for introductions was made.

Appeal:

At 3:29, the SHRC facilitated the appeal of the Fact-Finding and Recommendations from Central Region LHRC in the matter of DW v Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA). John Shepherd also informed the parties that they would receive the findings of the SHRC in writing within 20 working days.

Michelle Williams and Tichie Eppes presented virtually on behalf of the Individual. Ashley Englehart, Compliance Supervisor, RBHA presented in person on behalf of the provider. The committee decided to review the appeal in open session.

At 4:47, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Renee Valdez 2nd, the committee and parties to the appeal convened in closed session pursuant to VA CODE § 2.2-3711 (A) (4), (8) and (16), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, and discussion of their medical and mental health records and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 5:32, upon a motion by Betty Crance, and Bruce Ellsworth 2nd, the SHRC returned to open session. Upon reconvening in open session each member certified that, to the best of their knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters related to the stated reason for going into closed session were heard, discussed, or considered.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #1. Betty Crance 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #2. Renee Valdez 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #3. Renee Valdez 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #4. Bruce Ellsworth 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #5 with recommendation. Bruce Ellsworth 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

Christopher Olivo motioned the following regarding the matter of DW v RBHA: to uphold Finding #6. Betsy Lang 2nd. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed, 7:0.

**Request for Extend
Timeframes:**

At 5:36, the committee acknowledged and accepted the approval from the Extension Request Subcommittee for Final Determination in the matter of PB v Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI).

Adjournment

At 5:37, the July 16, 2026, SHRC Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting
August 13, 2026
Region 5