

February 15, 2016

2015 Pima County Human Rights Committee Annual Report

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF CONSUMER RIGHTS**

**PIMA COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2015**

Our Mission

The Human Rights Committees (HRCs) were created by the Arizona Legislature to assist the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA) in promoting the rights of children and adults who receive publicly funded behavioral health services.

Our Responsibilities

The Pima County Human Rights Committee (PCHRC) provides independent oversight and review of the following:

1. Allegations of illegal, dangerous, or inhumane treatment of clients and enrolled children;
2. Reports filed with the committee under Ariz. Admin Code R9-21-203 and R9-21-204 concerning the use of seclusion, restraint, abuse, neglect, exploitation, mistreatment, accidents, or injuries;
3. Reports filed with the committee under Ariz. Admin Code R9-21-203 and R9-21-204 to clients identified under R9-21-301 as in need of special assistance;
4. Violations of rights of clients and enrolled children and conditions requiring investigation under the complaint process as set forth in R9-21-403 to R9-21-409.
6. Any other issue affecting the human rights of clients and enrolled children. Ariz. Admin. Code R9-21-105 (G).

Executive Summary

- We recommend that open communications and transparency continue through the change from CPSA to Cenpatico effective October 1, 2016.
- We recommend training manuals be digitalized and updated electronically.
- We recommend at least one statewide meeting of Arizona Human Rights Committees.
- Passage of SB1400: Human Rights Committees; Members. This bill sponsored by Senator Nancy Barto (R, District 15) adds committee members with expertise in mental health and housing for the mentally ill. It also allows current or former

- providers or employees of providers who contracted with a RBHA to serve on the committee. Requires DHS ensure that each RBHA and its providers develop and implement human rights training plans. Expands the permitted practices and requirements of the committee and its members. The committee thanks Senator Barto for her commitment to the passage of this bill.
- The committee request that Cenpatico ensures that all of its service providers post the flyer notifying consumers of the Human Rights Committee and how to initiate contact. This info should be part of the client's intake packet for staff and new consumers.
- In August 2015 Pima County Judge Marner settled the lawsuit: Pima County HRC vs. State of Arizona in favor of the Pima County HRC. Essentially, the department has to disclose all pertinent information cited in an unusual incident report and can only redact the personal identifiable information, i.e., name and DOB.
- Sgt. Jason Winsky of the Tucson Police Dept. reported that both Tucson and Pima County have a mental health support team. This team has received national recognition. 100% of these teams will participate in the mental health first aid training. In advanced CIT training program has been developed and will be provided 1-2 times per year. 40 people between TPD and Sheriff Dept. have been trained in 2015 in the advanced program. An additional 40 hour CIT training was provided August thru December for specific officers.
- Palo Verde opened additional beds in June with 14 additional inpatient beds planned for future.
- Sonora Behavioral Health is planning to double the number of beds by early 2016. Sonora currently has 24 bed for children's and adolescent unit, 12 beds for high acuteness adults, 24 beds for general psychiatric unit and 14 beds for active duty military unit.
- Changes at state level impact the Pima County HRC as the region size has changed to the entire Southern area in Arizona covered by Cenpatico Integrated Care.
- The Arizona State Human Rights Committees held the first statewide meeting, which will become an annual event.
- The new web portal is up and running after many hours and much conversation with the PCHRC. Five PCHRC members have been assigned to the portal to review reports.

Organizational Structure

- The Pima County HRC has 14 members as of December 31, 2015. Recruitment of new members continues to be a priority. The membership is diverse with family members, consumers, and representatives of law, medical, education, as well as advisors from DBHS, CPSA and Cenpatico.
- Each member participates in at least one work group, each addressing more specific issues related to advocacy, rights, review of incident/accident, deaths and

seclusion/restraint reports, Legislative, CPSA/Update, Media Relations, review of research proposals, site reviews, CIT and community education. The Committee members are very committed to their work and spend an average five hours monthly.

Committee Members:

Ken Karrels, Chair	Amy Sherwood, Vice Chair	Susan Hyder, Vice Chair
Barbara Carling	Judy Kowalick	Susan Moreno
Steven Cloutier	Connie Stevenson	Joe Mucenski
John O’Dowd	Dave Ruitenber	Eleanor Schorr, Advisor
Stephanie Parker	Scott Harrington	

Advisors and Guests:

Jennifer Whetstone, CPSA	Yisel Sanchez, ADHS HRC Coordinator
Lauren Milden, CODAC	Siobhan O’Boyle, COPE
Margery Ault, ADHS	Whitney Goerke, CPSA
Melissa Brown, Human Rights Committee Liaison, Cenpatico Integrated Care	
Christy Cargian, Cenpatico	Tom Haskett, Cenpatico
Susan Junch, DBHS	Jason Winsky, TPD
Paul Galdys, ADHS	Sandy Guizzetti, Foster Care Review Board
Cindy Cole, Palo Verde	

2015

This year the PCHRC focused on the identified special assistance clients with increased site visits, children’s issues, continued assertive Community Education Outreach to reduce stigma, and increasing communication and interaction between providers, and Cenpatico and CPSA during transition:

Children’s Issue’s

Need for qualified Doctors to diagnose children with autism that will be accepted by DDD.

The adoption assistance and child welfare act requires sites to provide independent reviews of children in out of home care. In accordance with this federal law the FCRB makes determinations in 4 key areas: safety, necessity and appropriateness of placement. Progress toward mitigating need for foster care and a likely target date, which the child may be returned home, or placed for adoption or legal guardianship.

Volunteers are the independent eyes reviewing each child's case and providing unbiased recommendation to the judge.

In Pima County there are 29 boards reviewing 3000+ dependent children. There is an urgent need for volunteers, with currently 32 vacancies. Letter sent to Senator Barto on this urgent situation.

MIKID conducted tour of Palo Verde facility for children. There are currently 36 beds at Palo Verde designated for children. Beds for children are limited and children are being sent to Phoenix due to funding.

Children providers are struggling to adjust to lower pay scales. Transportation issues due to service not being paid for are one of largest children's issues. Transportation through Centpatico is only available for medically necessary services.

Site Visits

Dempsey's Boarding Care Home. Good review in all areas.

Joshua House. Houses up to 15 people. Good Review.

Best Home Boarding Home. Numerous issues. Follow up request sent to CPSA.

Porter and Tammys Hand that Helps. 15 residents. Good review.

Community Education/Reducing Stigma

- The Daniel Moreno Awards - Recognizes individuals in mental health recovery, advocates, educators, and direct service providers.
- Out of Darkness Walk Mental Health Week
- NAMI Candlelight Service CIT presentation given to PCHRC.
- CPSA Art Show Court Night, Free Legal Information
- HRC brochures to providers Disability Empowerment Center
- NAMI Statewide Meeting, Phoenix PCHRC Facebook Page created
- NAMI Walk

The Committee wishes to thank the staff of the AZ Department of Health, Bureau of Human Rights and the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Karrels, Ph. D.
Chairperson, PCHRC

Susan L. Hyder
1st Vice Chair, PCHRC

Cc: