



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority
Report of Findings
HRA #14-100-9029
Elgin Mental Health Center

Introduction

In June 2014, the North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) opened this investigation regarding Elgin Mental Health Center (hereafter referred to as Center), Forensic Treatment Program (FTP) Unit I. A complaint was received that alleged that a consumer is being restricted to the unit solely because he is refusing medication. The rights of consumers are protected by the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code (405 ILCS 5/ 2-107).

Recipients receiving services at EMHC's Forensic Treatment Program have been remanded by Illinois County Courts to the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) under statutes finding them Unfit to Stand Trial (UST) and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). Placement evaluations determine the most appropriate inpatient or outpatient setting for forensic treatment based on a number of factors including age, gender, mental health diagnosis, and security need. Unless a person is specifically ordered to receive services in an outpatient setting, court ordered referrals under state forensic statutes call for placement in a secure inpatient setting. The Forensic Treatment Program has 315 beds.

Methodology

To pursue this investigation, the HRA interviewed the consumer via telephone and with written consent reviewed his clinical record from admission through June 2014. The HRA typically would find it unfair to draw a conclusion from the record without giving the provider an opportunity to speak to the matter, however, given the provided documentation the HRA found there was sufficient evidence to complete a report.

Findings

The clinical record contained data on a male consumer remanded to the FTP program in October 2013. The clinical record showed that during the first approximate four months of the hospitalization, the consumer was medication compliant. In late February 2014, nursing notes documented that he became selective regarding medication refusal. The refusals were always honored and he was never restricted to the unit for the refusals.

The consumer did receive six separate 24-hour unit restrictions between late April and June 2014. The reasons for the 24-hour restrictions were the following: 1) he gave his food to a peer; 2) noncompliance when asked to leave his room; 3) agitated, yelling in dining room saying he was going to kill everyone; 4) difficulty trusting his behavior around females due to sexual remarks; 5) gave his milk to a peer; and 6) thought his food was being poisoned; refused to eat but told staff he ate; needed to be monitored for medical concerns.

All unit expectations are explained to the consumer upon entering the facility. And, this information is provided in the Consumer Handbook. An example for a unit restriction being

imposed might include the following: contraband or restricted items found in the room (e.g. candy/food), letting others use your debit card, electric razor found in the room, verbal abuse or fighting. When a restriction has been imposed, it is discussed with the consumer and the consumer is asked if he understands the stipulations presented. Each consumer is held to unit expectations -- no wavering. When on a restriction, the consumer is able to attend off-unit activities that are part of that consumer's treatment plan.

The Environmental Expectations (as stated from the Patient Information Handbook) include: practice respect and dignity for other consumers and staff-no violence or fighting, no foul language, no horseplay, and no inappropriate touching; adhere to safety practices; maintain and respect the environment-no destruction of others' property and keep living spaces and working spaces clean; take care of your own property and not borrow, lend, share, or give things away; and, keep appropriately clean, groomed and dressed both on and off the unit.

Conclusion

Pursuant to the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, Section 5/2-102, "A recipient of services shall be provided with adequate and humane care and services in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual services plan."

Restrictions are imposed when stated unit expectations are not followed; it is concluded that the consumer was not restricted to the unit for refusing medication but because he did not follow the unit expectations. The allegation is unsubstantiated.

RESPONSE

Notice: The following page(s) contain the provider response. Due to technical requirements, some provider responses appear verbatim in retyped format.



Pat Quinn, Governor

Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

Division of Mental Health - Region 2
Elgin Mental Health Center

RECOVERY IS OUR VISION
Recovery is a Personal Journey of Hope, Healing, Growth, Choice, and Change

August 13, 2014

Ms. Kori Larson - Chairperson
North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority
9511 Harrison Street, W-300
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1565

Re: HRA #14-100-9029

Dear Ms. Larson:

Thank you for your thorough review. We are glad to hear that this allegation was unsubstantiated. The staff at the Elgin Mental Health Center strives to provide the best possible care and treatment for our patients.

Please include our response with any public release of your Report of Findings.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Brock, M.S., M.P.A., M.H.A.
Hospital Administrator

PNB/JP/aw