

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2009

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority was called to order at 5:05 PM by the Chairperson, Mary McMahan. The meeting was held at Grand Chain Lodge, 495 Light House Road in Grand Chain.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Sharon Mumford, Al Farmer, Phyllis Brown, Mary McMahan, Karen Choate and Pam O'Connor

Members Absent: Kathy Rambeau, Sue Barfield, Brad Friend

Staff Present: Judy Atherton

Guests: Beverly Tweedy and Martha Clever (Chamness Care)

Determination of a Quorum: It was determined that a quorum was present.

Introductions: The Chairperson introduced the guests to the other HRA members.

Review and Approval of the Minutes: O'Connor moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

Confidentiality Statement: The Chairperson stated that personally identifiable information should not be presented in a public meeting in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations. In addition, a printed confidentiality statement was posted.

Brown moved to amend the agenda and to enter closed session to accommodate the guests from Chamness Care. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried. Closed session began at 5:11 PM. After discussion of Case No 09-110-9024, the guests exited the room at 5:29 PM. O'Connor moved to return the meeting to open session. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried. Open session resumed at 5:30 PM.

Communications: The Authority reviewed responses to Reports of Findings 08-110-9039, 09-110-9014 and 09-110-9016 (Chester Mental Health Center)

New Complaints:

09-110-9039..A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility is not receiving services in the least restrictive environment. The recipient is on the yellow level of the facility's leveling

system. Yellow is the medium level of advancement. It is alleged that the recipient needs to be released from the facility so that he can begin preaching the "Word". Mumford moved to not accept the new case for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9040...Security Therapy Aides (STAs) at a state-operated mental health facility were physically abusive to a recipient. 1) One of the STAs was verbally and emotionally abusive to another recipient by calling the recipient an obscene name. The allegations were reported to OIG on 03/04/09. Choate moved to not accept the new complaint for investigation since OIG is investigating the issues. The motion was properly seconded (O'Connor) and carried.

09-110-9041...Security Therapy Aides at a state-operated mental health facility choked a recipient and dragged him down the hall. The STAs also choked another recipient at the facility. The allegations were reported to OIG on 03/04/09. O'Connor moved to not accept the new complaint for investigation since the issue was reported to OIG for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.

09-110-9042...A recipient at a state-operated mental health center is not receiving services in the least restrictive environment. The recipient is presently on the red level, the lowest level of the leveling system, at the facility. Brown moved to not accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9043...A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility is not allowed to refuse medication. Mumford moved to accept the new complaint for investigation, The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9044...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility needs glasses. 2) Two recipients at the facility need assistance with learning English as a second language. 3) Another recipient needs new shoes. When the individual named in the complaint were contacted the following information was obtained: 1) The recipient who was reported to need glasses received the glasses; however, when he determined that the glasses did not improve his vision, he destroyed them. Facility staff members are in the process to obtaining new glasses for him. 2) Neither of the recipients who were reported to need assistance with English wanted to have assistance. 3) The recipient who was reported to need shoes received new shoes. O'Connor moved to not accept the complaint for investigation and consider the matter to be informally resolved. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.

09-110-9045...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health center is not receiving services in the least restrictive environment. 2) The recipient does not have water in his room at the facility. O'Connor moved to accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9046...1) A recipient was restricted to a unit at a state-operated mental health facility for a period of 24 days. 2) The recipient was not allowed to have his Bible. 3) The recipient has not been allowed to have commissary items. O'Connor moved to accept the new complaint for investigation The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

09-110-9047...A disabled individual has been denied services at a community comprehensive services center. Farmer moved to accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9048...An emergency room physician at a community hospital did not perform appropriate tests to determine the reason for an individual's illness. Mumford moved to not accept the complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

09-110-9049...A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility is not receiving services in the least restrictive environment. The recipient's therapist has recommended that he be transferred; however, the transfer has not occurred. Choate moved to accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

Choate moved to enter closed session for the second time to review case findings and to discuss confidential information. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried. Closed session began at 6:25 PM. The Chairperson returned the meeting to open session at 7:40 PM. Coordinator Atherton summarized the closed session. Case status updates were given for fifteen cases. One Report of Findings was approved, and one was table for approval. Four cases with reports of findings were closed, one case was closed without issuing a report, and one case was tabled to closure.

#### Case Status Updates:

09-110-9002...Choate Mental Health Center...(MI Division)...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9004...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9005...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status. O'Connor moved to close the case and to consider the matter to be informally resolved. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.

09-110-9006...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9007...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9009...Chester Mental Health Center....Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9015...Washington County Vocational Workshop...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9017...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9024....Chamness Care CILA....Coordinator Atherton and Chamness Care CILA owner, Beverly Tweedy, and Chamness Care CILA employee, Martha Cleaver, provided information about the case.

09-110-9025....Metropolis Nursing and Rehabilitation Center....Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

09-110-9027...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.  
09-110-9032..Hidden Valley Shelter Care....Member Farmer and Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.  
09-110-9034...Choate Mental Health Center...(MI Division)...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.  
09-110-9036...Jefferson County Comprehensive Services.....Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.  
09-110-9037....East Richland Community Elementary....Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

Reports of Findings:

07-110-9017...Chester Mental Health Center...O'Connor moved to table acceptance of the draft report. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.  
08-110-9038...Chester Mental Health Center...O'Connor moved to approve the draft report as written and to send it to the provider. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

Closure:

09-110-9039...Chester Mental Health Center...Choate moved to accept the response, close the case, and make the report a part of the public record The motion was properly seconded (O'Connor) and carried.  
09-110-9041...Chester Mental Health Center...Brown moved to accept the response, close the case, and make the report a part of the public record. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.  
09-110-9014...Chester Mental Health Center...O'Connor moved to table the closure of the case. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.  
09-110-9016...Chester Mental Health Center...Choate moved to accept the response, close the case and make the findings a part of the public record. The motion was properly seconded (O'Connor) and carried.  
09-110-9023...Desoto Elementary School....Mumford moved to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. The motion was properly seconded (Choate) and carried.

Announcements by the Chairperson:

The members agreed to have the next HRA meeting at 5 PM on April 28, 2009 at Tony's Restaurant Meeting Room, 18009 State Hwy 37 in Karnak.

Adjournment:

O'Connor moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried. The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam O'Connor, Secretary  
Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority