

PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
May 20, 2009

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:10 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 by Chairperson Jim Runyon.

The meeting was held at Robert Young Center, 2200 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Il.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jim Runyon, Steve Watts, Ann Hicke and Flora Knutson

ABSENT: Barbara Runyan, Dolores Sheen, Dean Steiner, Meri Tucker and Carolynsue Wolf

STAFF: Teresa Parks

GUESTS: David Watkins, City of Peoria

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was not present.

The Chairperson stated that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings to protect the privacy of those persons with disabilities on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Introductions were made.

To accommodate the guest present, Steve Watts made a motion to enter into executive session at 1:15 p.m. to discuss Case #09-090-9010 - Peoria City Hall. Guest, David Watkins, joined the closed session discussion. HRA Members reviewed a draft report of findings. No action was taken. The HRA returned to open session at 1:28 p.m. and David Watkins left the meeting.

MINUTES: The March 18, 2009 meeting minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

COMMUNICATIONS: Members present reviewed the resignation of Shrean Fawcett. Potential candidates to fill the vacancy were discussed. Teresa Parks reported of her participation in a volunteer and internship fair at Eureka College on 03-26-09. Information regarding the use of restraint and seclusion in behavioral schools was distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ratifications: None. The HRA could not ratify emergency case approvals for Case #09-090-9015 - Pekin Community High School or for Case #09-090-9016 - Bridgeway due to the lack of a quorum.

- B. New Complaints
09-090-9012 - ICF/DD Residential Facility - the complaint alleges that the facility has failed to provide adequate care for the resident and has failed to address complaints

regarding the resident's care. Complaints have been filed with the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding the same issues. In addition, an alternative placement is being sought by the resident in question. A release was mailed on December 16, 2008 and again on 04-08-08 with no response. Flora Knutson made a motion not to accept the case for investigation; the motion was seconded and carried by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

09-090-9013 - County Jail - the complaint alleges that there has been no staff training on mental illness, that towels are being used instead of spit masks, that when the detainee complained, the detainee was put naked in the jail, and that the jail did not provide medications and the family had to bring them in, although later the family was advised that medications could be available for \$5. A release was mailed on January 20, 2009, and again on 04-08-08 with no response. Steve Watts made a motion not to accept the case for investigation; the motion was seconded and carried by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

09-090-9017 - County Jail - the complaint alleges that a detainee was treated in an inhumane manner while on suicide watch at the jail. The detainee had to sleep on a concrete floor with 2 other detainees also on suicide watch. Eventually, mattresses were provided but only two mattresses were issued for the 3 detainees. The complaint also states that detainees must pay fees to access prescribed psychotropic medications, the physician or a nurse. A release has been obtained. The Commission's General Counsel is reviewing HRA jurisdiction in this case. Using emergency case opening procedures, Steve Watts made a motion to approve case acceptance pending the review and approval of the Commission's General Counsel; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present.

09-090-9018 - Addiction Recovery Program. The complaint alleges that the facility failed to adequately involve a patient's legal guardian in treatment decisions and failed to ensure adequate safety and security measures when the patient was allowed to leave and ended up missing and on the streets. The complaint also states that the program inconsistently applies admission criteria when a patient was found to be eligible for program services at the first admission but when a second admission was sought the program questions her eligibility. A release of information was sent 05-07-09 with no response to date. No action was taken by the HRA.

09-090-9019 - Hospital Emergency Room - The complaint alleges that a person with mental health and substance abuse issues was prematurely discharged from the emergency department after she sustained injuries from a physical assault and even though she had made suicidal statements. The ER did not provide a psychiatric assessment and did not make appropriate discharge arrangements. In addition, the complaint states that the ER record is inaccurate in that there are conflicting statements regarding the ER visit. A release of information was sent 05-07-09 with no response to date. No action was taken by the HRA.

09-090-9020 - Special Education Program - The complaint initially alleged that the ISBE failed to accept a parent's complaints related to special education services; after discussing with the GAC General Counsel, it was determined that the HRA does not have jurisdiction to investigate ISBE as ISBE is not a direct service provider. The complaint was then modified to the following: 1) the program fails to provide a student with an accommodation as identified in the student's IEP; 2) the program does not maintain adequate student records in that items referenced in the student's IEP are not found in the student's file. A release was sent 05-13-09 with no response to date. No action was taken by the HRA.

09-090-9021 - Community Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities - The complaint alleges that the organization's management uses a blanket approach in responding to client needs rather than utilizing individualized treatment planning. Recently, after an individual residing in a home owned by the corporation choked on a peanut butter sandwich, the corporation created a forbidden foods list of food that have a tendency to cause choking in individuals with swallowing difficulties. The forbidden foods list reportedly applies to all individuals residing in facilities owned by the corporation regardless of swallowing difficulties. Recently, residents were denied the opportunity to purchase hot dogs at a baseball game and they can no longer have hot dogs at cook-outs. This would be a general complaint although releases can be obtained. Using emergency case opening procedures, Steve Watts made a motion to accept the case for investigation; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present.

C. Election of Officers - The election was postponed until the July 2009 meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Steve Watts made a motion to return to closed session at 2:15 p.m. to discuss confidential information regarding case progress, draft reports and case closures. The motion was seconded and carried. The HRA returned to open session at 3:20 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. The following summary of items was discussed.

A. CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

09-090-9001: Sharon Health Care Willows - A site visit has been completed with Carolyn Sue Wolf participating; new case information has been secured and the investigation continues.

09-090-9005: Tazwood Mental Health Center - A site visit is scheduled for 05-26-09 with Barbara Runyan, Dolores Sheen and Carolyn Sue Wolf assigned.

09-090-9006: Robert Young Center - A site visit is needed. Steve Watts and Dean Steiner are assigned.

09-090-9008: Midland High School - A site visit is scheduled for 06-02-09 with Jim Runyon and Ann Hicke assigned.

09-090-9009: Monroe Grade School - the complainant may be satisfied due to action taken by the school. Teresa Parks attempted contact with the complainant with no response to date. Meri Tucker and Jim Runyon are assigned.

09-090-9015: Pekin Community High School - a site visit is needed. Jim Runyon and Flora Knutson are assigned.

09-090-9016: Bridgeway - a site visit is needed. Steve Watts and Ann Hicke are assigned.

B. DRAFT REPORTS:

09-090-9004: PARC - Flora Knutson made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured subsequent to the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

09-090-9010: Peoria City Hall - Flora Knutson made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured subsequent to the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

09-090-9011: Timber Creek Rehabilitation Center - Steve Watts made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured subsequent to the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

C. CASE CLOSURES

09-090-9002: Robert Young Center - No response was received and none was required. Steve Watts made a motion to close the case but not make the findings part of the public record in order to protect the confidentiality of the service recipient referenced in the case; the motion was seconded and approved by the members present. A fifth vote will be secured subsequent to the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Peoria Regional HRA is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2009 at Tazwood Mental Health Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The HRA agreed to adjourn at 3:35 p.m.

Ann Hicke, Recorder