

PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
March 18, 2009

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:15 PM on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 by Chairperson Jim Runyon.

The meeting was held at Snyder Village, 1200 East Partridge, Metamora, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jim Runyon, Steve Watts, Ann Hicke, Meri Tucker and Carolynsue Wolf

ABSENT: Shrean Fawcett, Barbara Runyan and Dean Steiner

STAFF: Teresa Parks and Cathy Wolf

GUESTS: Dolores Sheen and Flora Knutson

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was 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. Dolores Sheen and Flora Knutson introduced themselves as HRA Member applicants and shared their backgrounds.

MINUTES: Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to approve the January 21, 2009 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: HRA Member applications were reviewed. A training survey developed by a student intern was discussed. Information provided by Jim Runyon concerning IDEA and 504 Plans was referenced. Jim also distributed information concerning an Autism planning meeting scheduled for April 18th at Illinois Central College. Teresa Parks shared a recent newspaper article concerning mental health recipients in jails; an agenda for an upcoming Illinois Guardianship Association training scheduled for April 21st in Springfield was also shared. The HRA discussed e-mailing versus mailing meeting packets; the HRA decided to continue with the mailed packets so that the Members will have documents in hand at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ratifications:

09-090-9008 - Midland High School - The complaints allege the following: 1) the lack of a bullying policy implemented to protect students with disabilities; 2) an inadequate grievance process for parental concerns related to placement and education; and, 3) the failure to follow a student's IEP and delayed special education placement. An emergency case opening was approved by Jim Runyon, Meri Tucker and Carolynsue Wolf on

February 5, 2009. Meri Tucker made a motion to ratify the emergency case opening; the motion was seconded and carried.

08-090-9001 - Methodist Medical Center - at the time that the case was closed at the January 21, 2009 meeting, the HRA lacked a quorum with one member having a conflict of interest; a fifth closure vote was obtained from Meri Tucker at a later time. Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to ratify the case closure, making the findings and response a part of the public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

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 with no response to date. No action was taken. A reminder letter will be sent to the complainant.

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, but the complainant did not wish to proceed immediately for fear of retaliation, but may wish to proceed at a later date when the individual is released from jail. No action was taken. A reminder letter will be sent to the complainant.

09-090-9014 - Special Education - the complaint alleges that the school district fails to notify parents when a student receiving special education services is experiencing health related concerns. Instead, the district calls its attorney who then contacts the family's attorney. A release has not yet been secured but the family has indicated it will be provided should the Authority agree to consider the case. Steve Watts made a motion to not accept the case, indicating that the issue might best be addressed by the Illinois State Board of Education and thus referring the complainant to the State Board; the motion was seconded and carried.

C. Review of Executive Meeting Minutes

After reviewing the executive meeting minutes from the July 9, 2008, September 10, 2008, November 12, 2008 and January 21, 2009 meetings, Steve Watts made a motion to maintain the confidentiality of the executive minutes due to the potentially identifiable information contained therein and the Authority's mandate to protect the confidentiality of service recipients and case complainants. The motion was seconded and carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, Meri Tucker made a motion to go into closed session at 2:05 PM to discuss confidential case information related to cases #09-090-9001, 09-090-9004, 09-090-9005, 09-090-9006, 09-090-9008, 09-090-9009, 09-090-9010 and

09-090-9011; to review draft reports for Case #09-090-9002; and, to consider case closures for Cases #04-090-9035 and 08-090-9013; the motion was seconded and carried. The HRA returned to open session at 3:00 p.m. having taken no action in closed session, but providing a summary of closed session discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

09-090-9001: Sharon Health Care Willows - A site visit has been completed with Carolynsue Wolf participating; the case is ready for a report.

09-090-9004: PARC - An additional site visit is warranted to conduct a further chart review; the HRA requested that Teresa Parks conduct the additional chart review.

09-090-9005: Tazwood Mental Health Center - A site visit is needed. Barbara Runyan and Carolynsue Wolf are 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 needed. Jim Runyon and Ann Hicke are assigned.

09-090-9009: Monroe Grade School - the complainant may be satisfied due to action taken by the school. Teresa Parks will make contact and confirm. Meri Tucker and Jim Runyon are assigned.

09-090-9010: Peoria City Hall - A site visit has been completed with Meri Tucker participating; the case is ready for a report.

09-090-9011: Timber Creek Rehabilitation Center - A site visit has been completed with Ann Hicke participating; the case is ready for a report.

B. DRAFT REPORTS:

09-090-9002: Robert Young Center - Steve Watts made a motion to approve the draft report with revisions; the motion was seconded and carried.

C. CASE CLOSURES

04-090-9035: DCFS - Meri Tucker made a motion to close the case making the report part of the public record; the provider did not want its response public. The motion was seconded and approved.

08-090-9013: Pekin Community High School - The school did not respond to the HRA's substantiated findings. Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record and sending the report to the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy

Commissioners to request a referral for enforcement action. The motion was seconded and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Teresa Parks reported that Dean Steiner and Carolynsue Wolf are eligible and have agreed to serve another term. Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to recommend applicants, Dolores Sheen and Flora Knutson for appointment with Flora's appointment being effective as soon as the Commissioners vote and Dolores' being effective when Barbara Runyan's term expires at the end of May; the motion was seconded and carried. Teresa Parks reminded the HRA of the need to have an annual meeting to elect officers in time for the July 2009 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Peoria Regional HRA is tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2009 at Robert Young Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Meri Tucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Ann Hicke, Recorder