

**PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES**  
**May 19, 2010**

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:08 PM on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by Chairperson Jim Runyon.

The meeting was held at Bridgeway, Inc.. 900 South Deer Road, Macomb, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Ann Hicke, Flora Knutson, Jeremy McNamara, Jim Runyon, Dolores Sheen, Steven Watts, Carolynsue Wolf

Absent: Dean Steiner, Meri Tucker

Staff: Teresa Parks, Gene Seaman

Guests: Marshe White, Citizen  
Bonnie Bozard, Citizen  
Diana Dowachter, Citizen  
Jack Matheny, Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)  
Sam Light, Illini Bluffs Superintendent  
Libby Holbrook, Tazwell County Resource Center (TCRC)  
Ken Osborn, Southside Office of Concern

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was present.

The Chairperson stated the 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.

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act, and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority initially met in closed session closed session to discuss confidential information with meeting guests at 1:21. Delores Sheen motioned to go into closed session at that time. The motion was seconded and carried.

The HRA returned to open session at 2:42 having taken no action in closed session.

**MINUTES**

Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting minutes with one correction to the date of the minutes; the motion was seconded and carried.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The HRA reviewed the new board member application of Debra Goodwin. The motion to recommend Debra Goodwin as a member was made by Jeremy McNamara; the motion was seconded and carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Ratifications:**

There were no ratifications for this session.

### **New Cases:**

**10-090-9022 - Jail** - The complaint alleges an inmate's inability to access mental health services at the jail, including access to medications. The complaint also states that the inmate was to be transferred to a mental health center and the transfer has not occurred. No reason has been given for the inmate not being transferred. A release was sent on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on April 14<sup>th</sup> with no response. Jeremy McNamara made the motion to table the complaint pending release and to send another reminder letter regarding the release. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9023 - School District** - The complaint alleges that the school would not consider a student's service dog as an accommodation and would not allow the service dog to attend school with the student. The student's school placement was changed due to the service dog. Releases were returned on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Anne Hicke motioned to accept the complaint; the motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9024 - Housing Authority** - The complaint alleges that the housing authority provides inadequate maintenance to the resident's home. A release was sent on April 16<sup>th</sup> and again on April 26<sup>th</sup> with no response. Steven Watts motioned to table the complaint pending release and to send another reminder letter regarding the release. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9025 - School District** - The complaint alleges that the school would not allow a student with a stress disorder to go home when the student was feeling stress. The student's parent requested a special education evaluation to set up school services and to get an accommodation that would allow the student to go home when feeling stressed but the evaluation was refused by the school. Also, the student is not being allowed to participate in the school's graduation ceremony due to multiple absences. The student was also bullied while at school. A release was sent on May 7<sup>th</sup> with no response. Steven Watts motioned to table the complaint pending release and to send another reminder letter regarding the release. If the release is not received by May 30<sup>th</sup>, then the case will be considered closed. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9026 - Hospital** - The complaint alleges that a patient suffered abuse and inhumane care in the form of bullying by the younger patients while staying on the behavioral health unit of the hospital. The complaint also alleges that a patient's confidentiality was breached by another patient in group session that was attended by other patients on the floor. Also, the complaint

alleges that the hospital has an inadequate grieving process. A release was sent on May 10<sup>th</sup> with no response. Steven Watts motioned to table the complaint pending release and to send another reminder letter regarding the release. If the release is not received by May 30<sup>th</sup>, then the case will be considered closed. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9027, 10-090-9028, 10-090-9029 - Hospitals** - The complaint alleges that three hospitals conducted inadequate evaluations, offered no information regarding a patient's condition or proposed treatment, and refused to provide test results for a condition that resulted from the patient's exposure to hazardous substances. A release was obtained on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Steven Watts motioned to table the complaint until further information is received regarding the complainant's disability. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9030 - DD Service Provider** - The complaint alleges that a consumer has had several health issues that the provider did not take care of. Also, that the provider was not following diet orders, taking money from the consumers, falsifying documentation regarding fluid intake and bowel movements, and ignoring care of the patients hygiene. Jeremy McNamara motioned to accept the case pending releases. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The new Slate of Officers was presented. Steven Watts would be President, Dean Steiner would be Vice President, and Ann Hicke would continue to be secretary. The motion to accept the Slate of Officers was made by Jeremy McNamara. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **RECOGNITION**

Jim Runyon was recognized for his work as Chairperson of the Human Rights Authority Board. Jim was presented a certificate of appreciation by Steve Watts and Jim expressed his gratitude to the committee for the work that they have done over the years.

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act, and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, Flora Knutson made a motion to enter closed session at 3:33PM 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 4:10PM having taken no action in the closed session.

### **CASE PROGRESS REPORTS**

**10-090-9001: Five Points** - It was moved to refer the case to General Counsel to determine the jurisdiction issue. It was agreed to write a suggestion letter regarding the accommodations within 45 days. Steven Watts made the motion to accept the suggestion. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9007: Methodist Medical Center** - The case is on hold pending subpoena enforcement for security records.

**10-090-9015: ARC of Rock Island County** - Site visit is set for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Steven Watts and Jeremy McNamara are attending.

**10-090-9017: St. Margaret's Hospital** - Site visit is set for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Delores Sheen and Flora Knutson are attending.

### **DRAFT REPORTS**

**09-909-9022: Southside Office of Concern** - Jeremy McNamara motioned to accept the draft report with revisions. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9004: Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center** - Anne Hicke motioned to accept the draft report with revisions. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9006: Charter Oaks School** - Flora Knutson motioned to accept the draft report with revisions. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9008: Illini Bluffs School District** - Ann Hicke abstained. Flora motioned to accept the draft report with revisions. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9010: Midland School District** - The site visit has been done but the report is not complete.

**10-090-9011: Human Service Center** - The site visit is done but the report is not complete.

**10-090-9014: CWTC** - Flora Knutson moved to accept the report pending revisions. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **CASE CLOSURES**

**09-090-9017: Henry County Jail** - Flora Knutson moved to send a letter to the County Board President and to the Sheriff to verify that the jail has a contract with a mental health provider. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9002: Davies Square** - Carolynsue moved to send a letter asking for a response from Davies Square by June 10<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded and carried.

**09-090-9019: Methodist Medical Center** - Jeremy McNamara moved to close the case, making the findings part of the public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

**09-090-9021: DD Homes Network** - No response has been recieved. Carolynsue motioned to send a letter asking for a response by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded and carried.

**10-090-9005: TCRC** - Flora moved to close the case making the findings part of the public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Peoria Regional HRA is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the Princeton Gateway.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made to adjourn at 4:25PM. The motion was seconded and carried.

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Ann Hicke, Reporter