

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
July 21, 2011

Chair Larry Phillips opened the July 21, 2011 meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) at 4:00 p.m. at the Provena Covenant Medical Center, Auditorium B, 1400 West Park, Urbana, IL 61801.

Members Present: Mary Auth, Annette Becherer, Sandra Dixon, Babette Leek, and Larry Phillips

Members Absent: Sandra Kopels, William McSurley, and George Roth

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf

Guests: Patricia Mannen, Janet Manning, Debora Leaver, and Miranda Sue Terry

Larry Phillips 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. The new applicants were introduced and shared why they would like to participate in the HRA. A quorum was present.

Chair Larry Phillips made a motion to go into closed session at 4:10 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to review confidential case information related to case progress reports, draft reports, and case closures. The Authority returned to open session at 4:38 p.m. having taken no action in closed session.

Mary Auth made a motion to go into closed session at 5:15 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to review confidential case information related to, case progress reports, draft reports, and case closures. The Authority returned to open session at 5:20 p.m. having taken no action in closed session.

MINUTES:

Annette Becherer made a motion to approve the March 10, 2011 executive meeting minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

Mary Auth made a motion to approve the May 19, 2011 executive meeting minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

Annette Becherer made a motion to make public the executive meeting minutes of January 20, 2011, the March 10, 2011, and May 19, 2011 the motion was properly seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications

None

New Complaints

11-060-9014 - Mental Health Provider: The complaint states that a patient was seeking urgent help for a mental health condition. He started having chest pain at the clinic. The crises worker called an ambulance against the patient's wishes. The patient refused treatment with the ambulance. The police were called. The individual told the police he wanted to leave and they should respect his rights. The police put hand cuffs on the patient and he was transported by ambulance to the hospital without his consent. The patient now has a large ambulance bill for services that he did not want. A release was sent on 1/24/11, but it has not been returned. A second release was sent on 5/19/11. There has been no response. Mary Auth made a motion to not accept the complaint; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

11-060-9015 - Hospital: The complaint states the patient was coerced to sign a voluntary admission. The patient's arm was punctured without his consent to draw blood. He was not violent and was not doing anything that would provoke hospital staff to involuntarily admit him. The hospital would not let him leave from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. He was inappropriately restrained and given medications without his consent. The complaint states that hospital staff withheld food and water and that staff left him restrained naked, the whole time he was there. The patient is now responsible for a hospital bill for services, of which he did not request nor give consent. He did find out that the chest pain was from several broken ribs. A release was sent on 1/24/11 but it has not been returned. A second release was sent on 5/19/11. There has been no response. Annette Becherer made a motion to not accept the complaint; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

11/060/9019 - Behavioral Health Care Hospital: At our previous meeting the HRA asked for more information on this complaint. The parent had contacted crises intervention because her adolescent daughter was having behaviors. Her daughter's disability is Asperger's syndrome. Before the crises, the braking system failed on the parent's only vehicle and had not been repaired. The adolescent lived 200 miles from the only facility that could take her on that day. Arrangements were made by the crises team and the facility to transport her daughter to a behavioral health care hospital. The parent could not go with the transport team because she has another child with Downs Syndrome who needed her care. When her daughter was admitted, no one contacted the parent to complete the admission documents, to have parental involvement in the treatment planning, or collect emergency information. The calls by the parent were ignored and she was not informed of the floor, unit, visiting hours, and phone times. She called 10 times before she could get anyone to speak to her. She was told that her daughter had just arrived that very minute. The parent told staff her daughter would probably be hungry and she was told that her daughter had just eaten dinner there. She had asked to speak to the charge nurse, the administrator on call, or the social worker. She was told none of them were at the hospital. She was also told that she could not come get her child. The parent became frustrated and sent faxes to the hospital to complain about the process, find out information and to have a paper trail. The hospital responded by calling DCFS on the parent. A release had been received which was signed by the teenager and the parent.

DHS has investigated this complaint and has informed her that the facility will now change their admission practices because of her complaint. Annette Becherer made a motion to not accept the complaint; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

11/060/9024 - ICF-DD: 16 bed group home - The complainant first wrote to the HRA to complain about the guardians choices at this facility for the individual. The complainant had been removed as the guardian by the courts and wanted the HRA to investigate the guardian. The coordinator wrote her back and explained we do not investigate guardians, but communicated advice from our senior office attorney, which included some options that might resolve her issues. The complainant wrote back asking we investigate the facility. The complainant signed the release. The release was not valid, because she was not the guardian. Our director has suggested having the complainant contact the guardian to call the HRA to arrange for a signed release. There were previous findings at this facility about unimpeded visitation between the complainant and the facility. The complaint alleges that people have sex in the individual's bedroom, while he is trying to sleep. There are more allegations of hygiene and safety, unimpeded visitation, and financial exploitation of the resident's funds. It was the general consensus for the coordinator to contact the complainant to assist in obtaining a valid release.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

09-060-9010: Bradley School District - The report is in progress.

09-060-9011: Bourbonnais Elementary School District - The report is in progress.

09-060-9014: Center for Human Services - The report is in progress.

09-060-9015: Graywood Foundation - The report is in progress.

10-060-9005: Decatur Manor Healthcare - The report is in progress.

10-060-9004: Decatur Memorial Hospital - The report is in progress.

11-060-9003: Chalmness Square - The report is in progress,

11-060-9004: Heritage Healthcare - The report is in progress.

11-060-9009: Veteran's Administration - The report is in progress.

11-060-9010: Decatur Manor Healthcare - The report is in progress.

11-060-9011: St. Mary's Hospital - The report is in progress.

11-060-9012: The Pavilion - The report is in progress.

REPORT OF FINDINGS:

10-060-9017: Graywood Foundation - The report was tabled to allow HRA members time to read the report.

CASE CLOSURES:

10-060-9011: Moultrie County Beacon - Annette Becherer made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record; the motion was seconded and carried.

10-060-9006: Veterans Administration - Annette Becherer made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record; the motion was seconded and carried.

OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

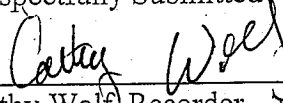
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., at the Danville Public Library, 319 N. Vermilion street, Danville, IL 61832.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Auth made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Wolf, Recorder