

PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
March 16th, 2011

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 by Chairperson Steven Watts.

The meeting was held at the Henry City Hall, 426 East Park Row, Henry, IL 61537

ROLL CALL

Present: Dolores Sheen, Meri Tucker, Flora Knutson, Debra Goodwin, Dean Steiner, Carolynsue Wolf, Steven Watts

Absent: Ann Hicke

Staff: Gene Seaman

Guests: Elaine Hopkins
Vicky Ehlston

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was present.

Introductions were made.

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.

The motion was made by to enter closed session at 1:05 p.m. pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) and (10) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20), Section 3955/10 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955) and Section 110/5 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110); the motion was seconded. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss confidential information with guests Elaine Hopkins and Vicky Ehlston. The HRA ended closed session at 1:35pm and then returned to closed session at 2:25 and proceeded to discuss case progress, draft reports, and case closures in closed session. During the discuss, Dean Steiner left closed session due to conflict of interest from 2:40pm until 3:05pm. The HRA returned to open session at 3:55pm. having taken no action in closed session.

MINUTES

Meri Tucker made a motion to accept the January 19th, 2011 meeting minutes. Flora Knutson seconded the motion and it was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The HRA reviewed the flowchart of the complaint process. The Authority asked that the flowchart be included with the meeting packet before each meeting and that changes are made for emergency cases.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

11-090-9025 - Methodist Medical Center - Complaint states that patient was sexually harassed while on at the hospital. A staff member grabbed his chest after showing and told him to put a shirt on after the incident. In another instance, a patient was sexually harassed by another patient and the hospital staff did nothing but medicate the patient. The complaint also states that the a patient was given medication via needle and the staff member administering medication penetrated to the bone rather than to the muscle. This was done out of punishment. The complaint also states that a patient was forced medication on 30 occasions but only received rights restrictions documentation on two instances. The complaint also states that a mural on the unit was psychologically disturbing. The motion was made to ratified the case and the motion carried.

New Cases:

11-090-9017 - School District - Student was not allowed into special education, even though the student was evaluated as needing the program, due to another program choice by the principal. The school would not honor accommodation requests made by a doctor regarding the student. Meri Tucker motioned to not accept the case based on the lack of release. The motion was seconded by Delores Sheen and carried.

11-090-9018 - Mental Health Center Living Facility - Staff member verbally abused consumer by yelling and threatening to terminate consumer from the program. The same staff member also accused consumer of breaking bathroom toilet. The complaint also states that the consumer was sick and staff did not give proper care and also that the facility has no internal grievance process. Meri Tucker motioned to not accept the case based on the lack of release. The motion was seconded by Dean Steiner and carried.

11-090-9020 - Public Health Department - Public Health Department is not accessible in public meeting rooms. Complaint was initiated by HRA. Steven Watts motioned to table the case so that he could physically view the area. The motion was seconded by Meri Tucker and carried.

11-090-9023 - School District - A student's IEP was not created and implemented in the allotted time after a child was determined to need special education services. The school district is not willing to accommodate services in the student's IEP. Flora Knutson motioned to not accept the case based on lack of release. Meri Tucker seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9024 - Hospital - A hospital failed to grant the requests of a patient, specifically adding the patients name to a "Not Announce" list when this was not desired by the patient. The

hospital did not fulfill request to speak with patient regarding rights. Flora Knutson motioned to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was seconded by Dean Steiner and carried.

11-090-9026 - Housing Authority - Tenant was evicted from housing without an adequate explanation of eviction. Meri Tuck motioned to accept the case. The motion was seconded by Debra Goodwin and carried.

11-090-9027 - Hospital - Inadequate discharge process, patient was discharged from medical center while still in need of care. Carolynsue Wolf motioned to table the complaint to wait for a release. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and carried. Dean Steiner abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

11-090-9028 - Hospital - Inadequate care, no food, water or medication for 6 hours after surgery, no physician orders for food water or medication, no discharge plan, staff being rude to patient, staff not responding to call lights, Inadequate explanation regarding condition and treatment with patient. Communication violation; no phone in the room or access to phone for a patient to use. Flora Knutson motioned to table the case until a release is received. Carolynsue Wolf seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9029 - Mental Health Provider - Inhumane treatment, including case manager for individual is rude and unprofessional, makes up lies about the individual's family situation, uses profanity towards individual and spouse, and reported false allegations towards an individual to a hotline. Inadequate treatment, including not allowing spouse access to treatment meetings or doctor appointments. Privacy violations, case manager insisted on being in physician's office when individual was being examined. Inadequate discharge, threatened to have individual discharged from services and sent a letter threatening discharge for missing appointments when some appointments were cancelled by the case manager and one appointment was cancelled due to individual's family's death. Accused the patient's wife for being the reason why meetings were missed. Inadequate grievance process. Flora Knutson motioned to accept the case. The motion was seconded by Carolynsue Wolf and it carried.

11-090-9030 - School District - Student was bullied and school would not tell parent what was done to the student that committed the bullying other than the student was talked to. IEP not being followed, including student not receiving study guides in advance, aide refusing to read test out loud to student, quizzing the student in algebra instead of teaching her, backing the student off one-on-one aide in algebra even though it was not agreed upon, aide not helping student when she raises hand, not giving the student Word Banks for testing, student getting study guide late and told to take test at the same time as other students, given wrong flashcards, not using set aside "goal time" during the day for goals, sensory diet not being followed. Misrepresenting data collection, asked student for school work to copy and told her it was for another reason than data collection. Inadequate transition planning. Meri Tucker motioned to table the case pending a release. Carolynsue Wolf seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9031 - Nursing Home - Resident was moved to acute Alzheimer's unit to make room for other patients even though the resident did not have the disease. Resident was not allowed to be

in the same room with his wife while at the facility. Power of Attorney and resident were changed extra for not giving 7 days notice for changing facilities even though Power of Attorney did not see a contract stating they had to give the time and resident did not have the capacity to sign and understand a contract. Individual fell and broke him while visiting wife at facility and ambulance was not called to take individual to the hospital. Individual was not admitted to the facility when this incident occurred. Request for more physical rehabilitation by POA was denied. The facility only used 5 days of Medicare for patient after he was readmitted from hospital. Flora Knutson motioned to accept the case. Meri Tucker seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9032 - Developmental Disability Provider - Possible HRA initiated complaint - Staff verbally abusive towards client. The HRA could review training on staff towards treatment of clients and staff policy on reporting abuse. This is an HRA initiated case. Dean Steiner motioned to not accept the case due to the fact that it was already investigated by the Office of Inspector General and closed. Meri Tucker seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9033 - Mental Health Provider - Inadequate discharge from program, client was discharged for missing too many meetings for work while other individuals in the program miss the same amount of meetings and are not discharged. Inadequate treatment, including case manager treating client in a rude and unprofessional manner. Inadequate grievance process, client was not even made aware of the grievance process and learned about it from the receptionist after she was already discharged from the program. The provider has mental health and substance abuse programs. The individual in the complaint is using the methadone clinic but has been diagnosed with a learning disability. Flora Knutson motioned to table the case pending release. The motion was seconded by Delores Sheen and it carried.

Discussion of election of Officers

The HRA discussed the election of officers at the next meeting. Meri Tucker volunteered for the Chairperson seat that Steven Watts will step down from when his term is up in May. Dean Steiner stated that he would continue the Vice Chairperson position for another year, and Gene Seaman said he would email Anne Hicke about continuing her seat as Secretary. The Authority also motioned to add another Authority meeting on June 15th, 2011 at 10am. This was motioned by Meri Tucker and seconded by Dean Steiner. The motion was carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS

11-090-9008: Trinity Services - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and it was attended by Dean Steiner and Carolynsue Wolf.

11-090-9009: Bridgeway, Inc. - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and it was attended by Meri Tucker.

11-090-9019: Bridgeway, Inc. - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and it was attended by Meri Tucker.

11-090-9022: Methodist Medical Center - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and it was attended by Meri Tucker and Carolynsue Wolf.

11-090-9025: Methodist Medical Center - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and it was attended by Meri Tucker and Carolynsue Wolf.

DRAFT REPORTS

10-090-9007: Methodist Medical Center - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to accept the report and this was seconded by Flora Knutson. The motion carried. Dean Steiner abstained from the voting.

10-090-9026: Methodist Medical Center - Gene Seaman informed the Authority that the report was not completed in time for the meeting. No vote was taken on the report.

11-090-9006: Forest Hill Health and Rehab - Debra Goodwin motioned to accept the report and the motion was seconded by Meri Tucker. The motion carried.

11-090-9011: District 150 - Debra Goodwin motioned to accept the report and this was seconded by Carolynsue Wolf. The motion was carried.

11-090-9012: District 150 - Meri Tucker motioned to accept the report and the motion was seconded by Flora Knutson. The motion was carried.

11-090-9015: Warren Achievement Center - Gene Seaman informed the Authority that the report was not complete. No vote was taken.

CASE CLOSURES

10-090-9017: St. Margaret's Hospital - Dolores Sheen motioned to close the case. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and it carried.

10-090-9030: Bridgeway, Inc. - Debra Goodwin motioned to close the case. The motion was seconded by Carolynsue Wolf and it carried.

10-090-9032: Robert Young Center - Meri Tucker motioned to accept the case and the motion was seconded by Carolynsue Wolf. The motion carried.

10-090-9034: El Paso Health Care and Rehab Center - Dean Steiner motioned that the Authority ask for additional policy to review before closing the case. Delores Sheen seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9003: Midland School District - Dean Steiner motioned to send a letter requesting a response. Delores Sheen seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9004: Citylink - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case. Meri Tucker seconded the motion and it carried.

11-090-9007: CWTC - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case and Flora Knutson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11-090-9013: Robert Young Center - A motion was made to close the case. The motion was seconded and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gene Seaman announced that the HRA would be moving offices at the end of May

ADJOURNMENT

4:15PM

Ann Hicke (GS)
Ann Hicke, Reporter