

Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority

- Meeting Minutes -

January 25, 2011

Members Present

Debbie Weiner, Chairman
Jan Little, Vice Chairman
Janet Shelton, Recording Secretary
Tara Dunning, Member
Linda O'Rourke, Member
Stephanie Snyder, Member

Guest

Mary Kennelly, Prospective Member
Christina White, Springfield Mental Health
James Bakunas, Prospective Member
Natalie Katauski, McFarland MHC

Staff Present

Michael Pintar, HRA Coordinator

Call to Order:

Chairperson Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:06 pm on Tuesday, January 25, 2010. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois.

Confidentiality Statement:

The Chairperson read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Changes in Agenda:

The Chairperson asked for changes to the agenda. The Coordinator moved four cases regarding McFarland to the beginning of the agenda due to having a quest from MHC. The Coordinator requested case number 11-050-9006 be moved from draft report of findings to unfinished business.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion by Tara Dunning, seconded by Linda O'Rourke, members voted to accept the minutes.

Closed Session: The HRA went into closed session at 6:12 and had a discussion with Natalie Katauski, Manager at McFarland Mental Health regarding four cases the HRA currently are reviewing. The authority returned to open session at 6:46.

Communications: The Coordinator announced Heidi Angels has resigned from HRA with an official letter. Mike also read a note from Barb Allen who also resigned from the HRA due to personal conflicts

in her schedule at the present. Mike announced Stephanie Snyder, a special education teacher at Virginia High School in Virginia, IL application was approved and that she is officially a new member of the HRA. He also introduced Christina White who works for Springfield Mental Health and is currently working toward a Masters degree. She may also participate in student work at the Central Illinois office.

New Business: Cases for consideration

11-050-9010 – alleged- A hospital refused to transfer him to another hospital that would accept his insurance and now they are trying to collect what they call a bad debt. Also, the hospital dew blood without permission, denied phone communications and the consumer was threatened by staff. This complaint is from several years ago, the complainant is from several years ago, and the complainant said he was afraid to being up these issues before because of retaliation. Upon a motion by Jan Little, seconded by Stephanie Snyder, members agreed to open the case.

11-050-9011 – The consumer complains that the Center made all consumers turn in their personal property that is a personal listening device except disc man type of compact disc players and wireless FM radio headsets. The Center has determined that MP3 players, IPODS and other devices are contraband; The Center said that they would replace MP3 players with appropriate radios and they have not. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke and seconded by Jan Little members voted to accept the case. (McFarland)

11-050-9012 – Headphones were stolen by someone, and then the headphones were traded by that person for his headphones which had been taken. The complaint stated the name of the person who did this was in the headphones. He went to the staff and was told tough luck". He will be going off grounds routinely soon and is concerned about his belongings and whether or not his things will be protected. Upon a motion by Janet Shelton and seconded by Linda O'Rourke members voted to accept the case. (McFarland)

Other New Business: None noted.

Unfinished Business:

The Authority returned to closed session at 7:12 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

A. Case Progress Reports:

1. 11-050-9005 – JDC – staff training
2. 11-050-9006 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center Case Manager
3. 11-050-9009 – Hope School – isolation & discharge

Draft Reports of Findings:

1. 10-050-9009 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – petition for discharge.
2. 11-050-9002 – Sparc – 5 parts
3. 11-050-9003 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - NOR

The members discussed the reports of findings and case closures.

Open session reconvened at 7:52 pm.

Reports of Findings: Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Tara Dunning, members voted to accept the reports with suggested revisions and pending administrative review.

Case Closures:

1. 10-050-9014 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – Peanuts. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke and seconded by Stephanie Snyder members voted to close the case and make the report a part of the public record.
2. 10-050-9024 – West Central Service Coordination waiting for qualification from DHS, Michael Hurt. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Janet Shelton members agreed to table case closure pending that response.
3. 10-050-9026 – JDC – Call Police - Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke and seconded by Jan Little, members voted for case closure and to make the report and the Center's response a part of the public record.

Announcements and Comments:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center

Site Visit: The Coordinator will call to set up a date for visits.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Shelton
Recording Secretary