

Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority

- Meeting Minutes -

July 26, 2011

Members Present

James Bakunas, Member
Donna Ferguson, Member
Linda O'Rourke, Member
Megan Waldschmidt, Member
Debbie Weiner, Chairman

Guests - None

Staff Present

Michael J. Pintar, HRA Coordinator

Absent Members

Tara Dunning, Member
Stephanie Snyder, Member
Jan Little, Vice Chairman
Janet Shelton, Recording Secretary

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 6:10 pm on Tuesday, July 26, 2011. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Introductions were made.

Confidentiality Statement:

The Coordinator 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; there were none.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 22, 2011 meeting were reviewed and it was noted that Tara was present at the May meeting and the minutes list her as not present. With that correction, upon a motion by Megan Waldschmidt, seconded by Linda O'Rourke members voted to approve and accept the revised minutes.

Communications: The Coordinator repeated information that Jan Little reported during the May meeting regarding Springfield Access bus policy for persons with disabilities. The Coordinator reminded members regarding access to training offered by the Illinois State Library.

New Business:

12-050-9001 - a facility failed to notify the guardian within twenty four hours that her daughter had been raped and it would not release records to her. The Coordinator reported that the consent to release information form had not been returned at this time. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Megan Waldschmidt, members voted to investigate the allegation. Members asked the Coordinator to ensure that OIG was contacted by the family.

12-050-9002 - a hospital may have violated rights when the Physician made an agreement with the patient for discharge to a drug and alcohol program and the day she was scheduled to move to the treatment program the Physician changed his mind and instead sent her to a more restrictive setting. Later a nurse told the patient that the reason the Physician became agitated at the patient was because her daughter called the Physician and threatened to sue him and the hospital. The patient requested a different Physician after he became hostile toward her and her request was denied. The Physician also sent her to a hospital outside of her health insurance network. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Donna Ferguson, members voted to open the case for investigation.

12-050-9003 - a consumer experienced dehumanization when she had to switch beds with someone in the middle of the night because that person had beaten up a roommate. They refused to disinfect the bed and staff that had awakened her became agitated at her for not responding quickly enough. Patients are not allowed to have paper towels - or paper cups and cannot have a drink in their room. The consumer's property was restricted without notice. She was only allowed three outfits and would not allow her to have tank top. The next day staff and other patients were wearing tank tops. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Donna Ferguson, members voted to investigate.

12-050-9004 - a patient was physically compromised after having lost thirty pounds during a short period of time. Patients asked on behalf of the compromised patient that she be treated for weight loss. That consumer ended up almost dying with heart and respiratory problems. Upon a motion by Megan Waldschmidt, seconded by Linda O'Rourke, members voted to open the case.

Other New Business: There was no other new business.

Unfinished Business:

Upon a motion by Megan Waldschmidt and seconded by Donna Ferguson, the Authority entered into closed session at 6:44 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential and potentially identifiable information.

A. Case Progress Reports:

1. 11-050-9006 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - Case Manager
2. 11-050-9012 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - property -
3. 11-050-9014 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - treatment/discharge -
4. 11-050-9017 - Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center - NORs
5. 11-050-9018 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - retaliation

B. Draft Reports of Findings:

1. 11-050-9013 - Jacksonville Developmental Center - alcohol
2. 11-050-9016 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - allergy/unit conditions

C. Case Closures:

1. 11-050-9009 - Hope School - discharge
2. 11-050-9010 - Blessing Hospital - denied transfer and phone
3. 11-050-9011 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - radios
3. 11-050-9015 - Midwest Clinical Counseling - inappropriate services

Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by James Bakunas, the HRA returned to opened session at 7:17 p.m.

1. 11-050-9013 - Jacksonville Developmental Center - alcohol - Members discussed their opinions regarding the outcome of that case. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Donna Ferguson members voted to approve the report of findings.
2. 11-050-9016 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - allergy/ u nit conditions. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke seconded by Megan Waldschmidt members voted to accept the report of findings.
3. 11-050-9009 - Hope Institute - members reviewed the Institute's response the HRA's report of findings. Upon a motion by Donna Ferguson seconded by James Bakunas, members agreed to close the case and make the findings and the response a part of the public record.
4. 11-050-9010 - Blessing Hospital - the members agreed to case closure without having issued a report of findings. The case was made when the hospital sent a bill to a consumer from 2007 causing him to question hospital practices regarding a transfer to a hospital that accepted the consumer's insurance. The hospital and consumer agreed on a reduced payment and the consumer did not respond to the HRA's attempts to gather information regarding complaint withdrawal. Upon a motion by Megan Waldschmidt, seconded by Donna Ferguson, members agreed to case closure.
5. 11-050-9011 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - listening devices. Upon a motion by James Bakunas, seconded by Megan Waldschmidt, members voted for case closure.
6. 11-050-9015 - Midwest Clinical Counseling. The consumer wrote a letter to the HRA asking to withdraw the complaint that the issue was resolved between him and the agency. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Donna Ferguson, members voted to close the case without having conducting its investigation.

Announcements and Comments:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center.

Site Visit: potential site visits were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Ferguson
Acting Secretary