

**Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Debbie Weiner, Chairperson  
James Bakunas, Member  
Tara Dunning, Secretary  
Jan Little, Vice Chairperson  
Linda O'Rourke, Member  
Janet Shelton, Member  
Megan Waldschmidt, Member

**Staff Present:**

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

**Members Absent:**

Donna Ferguson, Member

**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 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Welcome and 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 to the Agenda:**

The Chairperson reviewed the agenda and asked for changes; no changes were made.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Linda O'Rourke to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Janet Shelton. Motion carried.**

**Communications:**

Pintar reported that Stephanie Snyder has resigned her position on the Commission. There is one opening for a mental health provider. Pintar also discussed an Alzheimer's Conference on May 22, 2012.

**New Business:**

New complaints – 12-050-9011 – A nursing home does not maintain appropriate care, including updates regarding care for pressure sores, updated treatment plans regarding care and changing needs for care. Evidence that a resident had not been attended to (repositioned) for 5 hours during a shift. As directed by the Commission at the last meeting, Pintar checked with the Illinois Department of Public Health to see if a report was made to them on this matter. He discovered there was a substantiated report made so the Commission has no further action.

**A motion was made by Janet Shelton to not open case 12-050-9011 for investigation as the Illinois Department of Public Health as the lead on this issue. Jan Little seconded this motion. Motion carried.**

12-050-9014 – A person was admitted to a regional hospital psychiatric unit feels that the hospital did not offer adequate and humane treatment. Pintar has received the consent for information. Blessing Hospital

**A motion was made by Janet Shelton to open case 12-050-9014 for investigation Megan Waldschmidt seconded this motion. Motion carried.**

12-050-9015 – A person was at a hospital and restrained in a 6 point restraint. Staff was very aggressive. The patient complains of excessive force. Blessing Hospital

**A motion was made by James Bakunas to open case 12-050-9016 for investigation. Jan Little seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

12-050-9016 – A consumer was attacked on numerous occasions on her living unit by the same person. Consumer complains that she does not feel safe or protected on the unit. She also feels that staff have retaliated against her for the incident by not completing paperwork for discharge resulting in her hearing being postponed. Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center

**A motion was made by James Bakunas and seconded by Janet Shelton to open case 12-050-9016 for investigation. One abstention by Waldschmidt. Motion carried.**

12-050-9017 – A guardian is concerned that residents at a state operated facility are being coerced to testify at a hearing to keep facility open when the guardian feels they would rather live in the community. Jacksonville Developmental Center

**A motion was made Linda O'Rourke and seconded Tara Dunning to not open this case for investigation. Motion passed.**

**Unfinished Business:**

**A motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Linda O'Rourke to enter into closed session at 6:45 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:**

12-050-9001 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – sexual abuse notify guardian – *consent to release information still has not been obtained.*

**B. Reports of Findings:**

12-050-9013 – McFarland Mental Health Center – teeth – the written report was reviewed. **A motion was made by Linda O’Rourke to accept the report as written. Janet Shelton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**A motion to reconvene open session was made by Linda O’Rourke and seconded by Janet Shelton at 7:12 p.m.**

**C. Case Closures:**

**11-050-9006 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - Motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Tara Dunning to close the case.**

**11-050-9012 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - Motion was made by Jan Little and seconded by Linda O’Rourke to close this case without issue of investigation. Motion passed.**

**11-050-9017 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center - Motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Tara Dunning to table closure until a response is received.**

**12-050-9003 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - A motion was made by Megan Waldschmidt to table closure until Pintar can get clarity from McFarland’s on their response to our findings.**

**12-050-9008 – Capital Care Center - Motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Tara Dunning to table closure until a response is received.**

**12-050-9010 – SPARC - Motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Tara Dunning to table closure until a response is received.**

**12-050-9012 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center - Motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Tara Dunning to table closure until a response is received.**

**Announcements and Comments:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center.

**Site Visits:**

Site visits need to be scheduled at Blessing Hospital in Quincy as well as McFarland Mental Health Center in Springfield.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Jan Little and seconded by Tara Dunning. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Tara Dunning, Secretary

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Date Approved