

**Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2012**

Members Present:

Debbie Weiner, Chairperson
Tara Dunning, Secretary
Donna Ferguson, Member
Linda O'Rourke, Member
Megan Waldschmidt, Member

Staff Present:

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

Guests:

Linda Tisdale, SMTD Director
Melissa Ashford, Dispatcher
Charles Schmadeke, Attorney

Members Absent:

James Bakunas, Member
Jan Little, Vice Chairperson
Janet Shelton, 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, April 24, 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.

Closed Session:

Guests from Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) are present today to discuss a complaint against Access Springfield. The Authority went directly into closed session to accommodate our guests.

A motion was made by Dunning to enter into closed session at 6:12pm. The motion was seconded by Ferguson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Waldschmidt to come out of closed session at 7:00pm. The motion was seconded by Dunning. Motion passed.

Changes to the Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 27, 2012 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by O'Rourke to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried.**

Communications:

Pintar shared a copy of TechTalk with the Committee. TechTalk is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Illinois Assistive Technology Program.

Pintar provided information on a conference May 21-22 in St. Louis on aging with a developmental disability.

Pintar shared the Governor's plan for closure facilities. The closure of a State Operated Developmental Center (SODC) is a highly emotional issue which impacts a large number of interests.

New Complaints:

12-050-9017 – A parent's organization complains a facility is violating consumers' rights regarding the failure of the state to evaluate the individual residents' needs before making a blanket decision to relocate all the residents and the state's failure to include families in the decision process.

A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by Weiner not to open this case for investigation. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Ferguson to enter into closed session at 7:21 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
Pintar has yet to receive the consent form, he will follow up with the facility and request mass records.

12-050-9015 – Blessing Hospital – restraint
Pintar completed a site visit on April 5th and will have a written report for the May meeting.

12-050-9018 – Access Springfield – rude driver
This complaint will be scheduled for investigation in the next month.

B. Draft Reports of Findings:

12-050-9014 – Blessing Hospital – inadequate treatment – *A written report was distributed for review and approval.*

12-050-9016 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – victim privileges – *A revised report was distributed for review and approval.*

C. Case Closures:

11-050-9019 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center – *a written response has been received.*

12-050-9003 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – *this case was substantiated, a written response has been received. The Center did not agree with the findings but is complying.*

12-050-9012 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center – *this case was unsubstantiated, a written response has been received.*

12-050-9013 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – *a response has not been received to date.*

A motion to reconvene open session was made by Ferguson and seconded by O’Rourke at 7:35 p.m. Motion passed.

12-050-9014 – A motion was made by O’Rourke and seconded by Dunning to accept the report as written.

12-050-9016 – A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by O’Rourke to accept the report as written.

A motion was made by O’Rourke and seconded by Ferguson to close cases 11-060-9019, 12-050-9003 and 12-050-9012.

12-050-9013 – A motion was made by O’Rourke and seconded by Weiner to table the closure of this case as no response has been received.

Announcements and Comments:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dunning and seconded by Waldschmidt. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Dunning, Secretary

Date Approved