

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
November 21, 2013

Chair Mary Auth opened the November 21, 2013 meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) at 4:00 p.m. at the State Office Building, Main Conference Room, 2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Members Present: Chair Mary Auth, Vice Chair Annette Becherer, Paulette Brock, Sandra Dixon, Babette Leek, Sandra Kopels, Janet Manning, and Varun Pilla

Members Absent: Jack Li

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf

Guests: Cheryl Winnicki

Chair Mary Auth stated that 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.

Introductions were made.

MINUTES:

Sandra Dixon made a motion to approve the September 19, 2013 meeting minutes including the executive meeting minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

The HRA went into closed session at 4:03 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act. The Authority met in closed session to accommodate the guest to review confidential information related to the report of findings, the response to the reports, and potential case closure. The Authority returned to open session at 4:27 p.m. having taken no action in closed session.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The coordinator shared how a new complaint was handled informally. That both parties had reached a resolution and the complaint was withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications

14-060-9003 - Fox Developmental Center - The HRA had an emergency case opening with the approval of the chair and two HRA members on the following allegations:

1. A recipient of services has not been provided with adequate and humane care and services in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual services plan.
2. The facility impedes visitation for an individual receiving services.
3. The facility attempts to override the guardian's directives.

Sandra Kopels made a motion to ratify the emergency case opening; the motion was seconded and approved.

New Complaints

14-060-9002 - School - The complaint states that a student's password is derogatory in nature and staff have not intervened to have the password changed. The staff do not recognize or address triggers that result in self-stimulation behaviors. The student has been removed from the classroom and placed in a hallway due to the self-stimulating behaviors sometimes for up to 80 minutes. The assigned aide does not have adequate training to address the student's needs and to effectively implement the student's IEP. The school blocks the handicapped parking space. For the student, the parent uses the space, which is closer to the entrance, to protect his safe entrance into the school. Two releases have been sent with no response. Vice-Chair Annette Becherer made motion to not accept; the motion was seconded and approved.

14-060-9003 - 16 Bed ICFDD - The complaint states the home is chronically understaffed even though Public Health at a recent survey had made recommendations to increase staffing it has not happened. The residents at the home had pooled their money to purchase a Wii game. The game has been missing. The agency has not replaced it even though it is believed that a staff person may have taken the game. The complaint was anonymous.

Update: Per conversation with administrator of the home the game was purchased by the agency. No one at the home had made mention of missing the game. She would discuss the missing game with the individuals of the home and if there was an interest she would follow up with possibly purchasing a new game station. A referral was made to public health on the home being understaffed.

Per a follow-up phone call, the coordinator was informed that most residents were interested in having parties, but not in replacing the game. However there was a decision made by the agency to purchase a new Wii game to put under the tree at Christmas, because it can be therapeutic. The administrator also stated that the home has been fully staffed. Sandra Kopels made a motion to not accept; the motion was seconded and approved.

14-060-9006 - Hospital Behavioral Health Unit for Children - The complaint alleges that a 7 year old child was placed in a unit of mostly teenagers. There were possible medication errors. The child was shown Harry Potter movies which are PG 13 movies and were not appropriate visual and auditory therapy. The child is fearful of scary fantasy movies. The child's diagnoses are psychotic disorder, depression and PTSD. There is a possibility of schizophrenia. The facility impeded the discharge of the child for 5 days to another facility that was more appropriate. A release has been sent, but not received. The coordinator was advised to send a second request for a release.

14-060-9007 - Rehabilitation Service Provider - The HRA, during the course of an investigation was informed that a person who was aged, and has a physical and mental health disability was required as part of a work reentry program to do yard work such as pulling weeds and raking leaves for non-profit organizations. The individual had expressed that this work was too much for her physically and caused her pain in her knee and hip. The coordinator contacted

the Department of Aging on her behalf. The coordinator was contacted by the collaborative agency of the Department of Aging, and was informed that a worker would meet with the individual and advocate on her behalf. The coordinator was advised to do a follow-up contact with the client.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The HRA went into closed session at 4:55 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act. The Authority met in closed session to review confidential information related to case progress reports, reports of findings, responses to reports, and case closures. The Authority returned to open session at 5:00 p.m. having taken no action in closed session.

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

13-060-9010: Shapiro Developmental Center - The report is in progress.

REPORT OF FINDINGS:

12-060-9015: Neighborhood Opportunities - Vice-Chair Annette Becherer made a motion to accept the report; the motion was seconded and approved.

13-060-9018: Crosspoint - Vice-Chair Annette Becherer made a motion to accept the report; the motion was seconded and approved.

CASE CLOSURES:

14-060-9001: Shelby County Services - Janet Manning made a motion to approve to close the case; the motion was seconded and carried.

OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

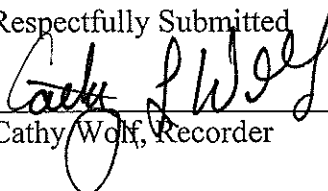
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Sandy Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted


Cathy Wolf, Recorder