

METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

April 11, 2013 MINUTES

Member Emil Wilson called to order the April 11, 2013 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Caseyville Township Hall.

PRESENT

Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary
Beverly Sweatman, Member
Margaret Merrell, Member
Emil Wilson, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

ABSENT

Kingston Schmid, Vice-Chairperson
David Bollone, Member
Carol Neudecker, Member
Karen Kelly, Member
Thomas Cannady, Chairperson

GUESTS

Barb Nelson, Administrator
Community Link

INTRODUCTIONS

Emil Wilson recognized that a quorum was not present.

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

Member Emil Wilson asked for changes in the agenda. The Coordinator suggested going into closed session to discuss case 13-070-9008 with the Director of the agency.

Upon a motion by Margaret Merrell, seconded by Emil Wilson, the HRA went into closed session at 7:05. At 7:20 upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members agreed to return to open session.

MINUTES

The members reviewed the stated minutes of the February 7, 2013 HRA meeting and considered them for approval. Members present agreed to approve the minutes with suggested corrections based on a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Beverly Sweatman.

COMMUNICATIONS: Members discussed the upcoming Illinois Guardianship training agenda scheduled April 24, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

12-070-9037 - In February 2012, the media announced that Gov Quinn had decided to close a state operated facility to move residents into community group homes. This was a budget decision, not based on the needs of residents. A letter from the agency Director dated February 24, 2012 indicates that the family will be contacted by Department of Human Services and still the residents and/or families have not received additional correspondence. No one has followed through on this promise or provided additional information. The HRA had a discussion, trying to determine the best way to proceed. Tabled at the last meeting. Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Kingston Schmid, member voted to table case opening.

13-070-9025 - a consumer states that his Physician will not prescribe medications that have helped with his psychosis in the past (Seroquel and Trazodone) instead he's ordering Zyprexa which has not helped in the past or is not helping now. The hospital has not included him in a treatment plan, though they presented some information and made him sign for it. He did not feel included in that process. Asked Physician to send him to a facility where he experienced success but Dr refused.

Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members present agreed to case investigation.

13-070-9026 - recently an edict to remove all golf style pencils from individuals and offering soft ink pens. Consumers feel that the staff were being antagonistic by removing the pencils that had been the only writing utensils available prior to obtaining the soft pens. When staff were asked why the consumers couldn't retain their pencils they were told it was a safety issue. Also two of twenty patients were issued a notice of restriction. The complainant noted that the patients possess their room keys which may be considered more dangerous than pencils.

Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley seconded by Emil Wilson, members agreed to case opening.

13-070-9027 - a vegetarian patient is not allowed a vegetarian substitute for the meat entrée on 8 occasions since admission in February. When he complained to the dietician, she allegedly replied "if you don't like it, you should stop being a vegetarian.

Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members agreed to case opening.

13-070-9028 - a consumer was not allowed to possess a radio that was brought to him by a visitor. The facility will not allow the consumer to have the property because there was a name that had been etched into the product that was etched out. Therefore the staff assumed the radio was traded or stolen, all of which are illegal, sent out of the facility and then returned by a visitor. The consumer claims it was not sent out.

Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, member agreed to case opening.

13-070-9029 - Several Units with about 20 patients has only one telephone available and this causes many problems including fights on the unit. The second phone was disabled in

November and has not been replaced. The allegation states that communication is being impeded and personal safety is at risk.

Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded Behavioral Unit Nursing Supervisor Beverly Sweatman, members agreed to case opening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, the Authority went into closed session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

Case Progress Reports:

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Case progress reports

12-070-9016 - Madison County Housing - a consumer was evicted & return property

12-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - continuing education/computers

13-070-9001 - Alton Mental Health Center - cancelled computer

13-070-9002 - Alton Mental Health Center - rights on the unit

13-070-9006 - Equip for Equality - guardians oppose interactions at WM Center

13-070-9009 - Alton Mental Health Center - no discharge plan

13-070-9010 - Madison County Housing - eviction notice

13-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - dentures

B. Reports of Findings:

13-070-9015 - Park Haven - record review & medication

13-070-9022 - Hope Home - food stamps

C. Case Closures:

12-070-9016 - Madison County Housing - evicted & refused to return property

13-070-9005 - Alton Mental Health Center - dental -

13-070-9008 - Community Link - discharge & notify OIG of allegation of abuse

13-070-9023 - Alton Mental Health Center - consumer impregnated lost privileges asked to withdraw.

13-070-9025 - Warren Murray Center - readmission. The Center agreed to readmit the consumer in question in this allegation, thus the guardian withdrew her complaint.

The HRA returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley.

Upon returning to open session:

The members present, based on a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley seconded by Margaret Merrell. Members voted to accept report 13-070-9015 - Park Haven - pending Administrative approval.

Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members agreed to accept case report 13-070-9022 - Hope Home - food stamps.

Case Closures:

12-070-9016 - Madison County Housing - evicted & refused to return property. Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted for case closure.

13-070-9005 - Alton Mental Health Center - dental - Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted for case closure.

13-070-9008 - Community Link - discharge & notify OIG of allegation of abuse. Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members voted to close the case and notify Department of Human Services regarding the PUNS list and problems that exist when consumers are not placed in appropriate settings.

13-070-9023 - Alton Mental Health Center - consumer impregnated lost privileges asked to withdraw.

13-070-9025 - Warren Murray Center - readmission. The Center agreed to readmit

Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted for case closures without having conducted an investigation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be May 9, 2013 at Caseyville Township Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary