

# METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

May 9, 2013 MINUTES

Member Emil Wilson called to order the May 9, 2013 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Caseyville Township Hall.

## PRESENT

Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary  
Emil Wilson, Member  
Carol Neudecker, Member  
Karen Kelly, Member  
Thomas Cannady, Chairperson

## STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

## ABSENT

Beverly Sweatman, Member  
Margaret Merrell, Member  
David Bollone, Member

## GUESTS

## 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.

Chairperson Thomas Cannady asked for changes in the agenda. The Coordinator asked that case 12-070-9029 be moved from report of findings to unfinished business.

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:

13-070-9029 - - a female unit of 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 Thomas Cannady, seconded by Karen Kelly, members voted to investigate the allegation.

13-070-9030 - a consumer lost her pass April 10<sup>th</sup> after a staff member changed her pass level because she spoke to a consumer from a different unit. The consumer stated that levels were only supposed to be reduced if a safety issue exists. The staff accuses her of not following prompts but the consumer does not see it that way. Upon a motion by Karen Kelly, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members voted to investigate the allegation.

13-070-9031 - a consumer was physically assaulted and when she attempted to call the appropriate authorities, she was not allowed. The consumer continues to fear for her safety because no action was taken to record or discipline the aggressor. Upon a motion by Karen Kelly, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members voted to open the case.

13-070-9032 - A consumer with mental illness is under court order to take psychotropic medication in the form of an intra-muscular injection every thirty days. After 25 days or so, the medication wears off and symptoms of mental illness reappear causing behaviors that often require hospitalization. During hospital stay, the hospital must take invasive measures including restraint to administer the medication. The nursing home may be violating the consumer's rights when it fails to adhere to the court order. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Karen Kelly, members voted to investigate the allegation pending receipt of consent to release information.

13-070-9033 - a consumer was restricted when he completed a phone call with his mother. The consumer received a call just before 5 pm regarding his father being hospitalized. At 5 pm. the consumer was told to hang up and he did not. The staff initiated 72 hour restriction while still allowing him to call his mother. The process does not make sense to the consumer and seems he should not have his rights restricted with exception. Also, television rules say that the TV. should remain on the channel that was last being watched by a person who had signed up to view a program. In other words, if the last person signed up for television was watching the cartoon network; that station has to remain on throughout the day until the next sign up period begins. Staff do not awaken consumers who are sleeping when it is time to go to commissary.

Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Carol Neudecker, members voted to investigate the allegation.

## 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 Karen Kelly, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, 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

12-070-9034 - 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

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

B. Reports of Findings:

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

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

C. Case Closures:

13-070-9022 - Hope Home - food stamps

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

The HRA returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. upon a motion by Emil Wilson, 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.

13-070-9010 - Madison County Housing - evicted Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted to accept the report pending Administrative approval.

Case Closures:

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

13-070-9012 - Alton Mental Health Center - blankets (personal property)

13-070-9022 - Hope Home - misuse of food stamps Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted for case closure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be June 13, 2013 at Caseyville Township Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary