

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
CHICAGO REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Madden MHC, Room 1088: 1200 S. First Ave., Hines, Illinois

PRESENT: Judi Bradley, Linda Cervenka, Gary Doherty, Dallas Read, and Daryl Richardson.

ABSENT: Tiffany Johnson, Marie Marasovich, and Michael Romain.

STAFF: Jeremy Polk (Disability Rights Manager - DRM), and Alejandra Meza (DRM).

GUEST: Joe Lupa, and Sandra Coleman (prospective board members)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Chicago Region was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by the Chicago Region Member Daryl Richardson.

It was determined that a quorum was present, however the HRA elected not to enter closed session. The confidentiality statement was read by Jeremy Polk.

Minutes: Minutes for April 30, 2024, were approved. The motion was entered by Judi. The motion was seconded by Dallas and the motion carried with remaining votes.

Communications:

NEW BUSINESS

New Cases:

24-030-9019 – New Case – A recipient reports that a facility did not properly admit her on to the unit. The DRM met with the recipient; the recipient was focused on discharge. The DRM spoke with the director of the unit and the recipient was discharged to a SMURF a few days later. The recipient did indicate that she was given forced medication for speaking up for herself in a calm manner. The DRM attempted to reach out to the recipient several times, but the recipient has not returned calls. Motion to not accept this case was entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Daryl. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24- 030-9029 – New Case – The DRM received call from a complainant requesting discharge. The complainant states that at the previous hospital he was given forced medications and restrained for no reason. The complainant then indicates that the facility never explained his rights and transferred him to another facility for treatment. DRM did receive a release, so the case was

opened to look at forced medications and admission. Motion to open entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Daryl. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9031 – New Case – A complainant states that he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital without cause. The complainant also indicates that he never saw a psych doctor nor was he explained his rights. The HRA motioned to not accept this case as based on the information provided. The recipient was on a psych unit prior to his transfer to the facility per statement from the recipient. Motion to not accept entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9034 – New Case – DRM received a call from a complainant. The report indicates that the recipient was never explained their rights upon admission to the hospital. The report indicates that the recipient entered the hospital for a medical issue and was given forced medication without cause. The report states that the recipient was involuntarily held without reason. Motion to open entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9037 – New Case – A complainant reports he received at least 10 shots while he was in the ER for 3 days prior to being petitioned out for inpatient psych treatment. He did not report any threatening behavior and said would receive the shot whenever he would ask questions about why he was there or what was happening. He also said he was excessively restrained. Case was tabled due to no release. Motion to not accept was entered by Judi. The motion was seconded by Daryl. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9038 – New Case – The DRM received call from wife of patient who is under guardianship by a private guardianship agency. She alleges that she is not allowed to visit or have contact with her husband. She also alleges that his care plan is not being followed and that she is not allowed to participate in his care plans. Caller alleges medical concerns and neglect. DRM encouraged her to continue reporting to IDPH. DRM filed IDPH report as well. Prior to the meeting the recipient passed away. Motion to not accept this case was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9039 – New Case – The DRM received a call from mother of minor patient reporting that patient was discharged back to the family home without any notification. Family did not participate in a discharge plan. Minor was transported back home via Uber. The motion to open the case was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9040 – New Case – The DRM from complainant stating she has received multiple emergency injections despite not doing anything to warrant them. Complainant also reports not receiving restriction of rights notices after receiving the injections. The HRA never received a release. Motion to not accept was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9041 – New Case – A report indicates that a recipient was subject to a strip search, not explained their rights and was not given vegetarian options for meals. The recipient also indicates that she was not provided care in the most humane way possible as she requested headache medications and never received them. Motion to accept this case was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9042 – New Case – A complaint stated that a group home's staff are not allowing the resident to attend her adult transitional classes at Thornton Township High School. The complaint stated that the group home staff are cashing the resident's SSI checks and she is not allowed accessed to her money. Case was tabled due to not having all information and a release. Motion to table entered by Dallas. The motion was seconded by Daryl. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9043 – New Case – A call was received from a nursing home resident who states that she is on a locked dementia unit despite not having a dementia diagnosis. She admits that she did elope last year but does not think she should still be in the locked unit. She also wants more community access but does not have a community pass. She is currently allowed to go outside a few times a day during smoke breaks despite not being a smoker. There have been no attempted elopements during these outings. OSG is her guardian and is on board with her being off the unit and will consent to a community pass. Care plan meetings to discuss this have not been held. Facility has been unresponsive to OSG and did not respond to DRM's recent inquiries. Motion to open entered by Dallas. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion carried with remaining votes.

25-030-9001 – Madden – A social worker emailed HRA about a recipient with a POA issue. The Chicago DRM met with the recipient on 6/11/2024 and took his information. The DRM then followed up with GACs Office of State Guardian. The DRM then contacted the Social Security Administration on behalf of the recipient. The DRM also had OSG's notary complete a revocation of POA form. DRM then mailed the form to SSA. The recipient's SSA was suspended, and the recipient was returned his SSA. The HRA motioned to open and close this case as handled informally. Motion to open and close entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Daryl. The motion carried with remaining votes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The HRA did not move into closed session pursuant to the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2).

Case Assignments:

N/A

Draft reports for acceptance:

24-030-9012 – Loretto – There were no issues in the report as drafted. The HRA motioned to issue the report. The motion was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

Accept responses, close, and publish:

23-030-9005 – Ascension St. Joseph's – This case was closed the HRA received a response to the recommendations in the report that was issued. The response was overdue. The motion to close and publish was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9029 – Ascension Resurrection – There were recommendations in this case, but the facility had already addressed the issues presented. The motion to close and publish was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Judi. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9034 – Madden – There were no issues in the report as drafted. The report also had no recommendations. The HRA motioned to close and publish the report. The motion was entered by Judi. The motion was seconded by Dallas. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9042 – Ascension St. Mary's – There were recommendations in this report. There was no response received so the HRA motioned to table the report. The motion was entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

Other unfinished business, announcements, and comments:

Gary Doherty was named HRA Chair and Linda Cervenka was named Secretary. The HRA also voted to keep closed minutes confidential.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn entered by Daryl. The motion was seconded by Linda and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cervenka – Secretary