

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
CHICAGO REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Madden MHC, Room 1088: 1200 S. First Ave., Hines, Illinois

PRESENT: Linda Cervenka, Gary Doherty, Nicole Erickson, Tiffany Johnson, Joe Lupa and Michael Romain.

ABSENT: Judi Bradley, and Marie Marasovich.

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

GUEST: Kamil Brady (potential HRA member)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Chicago Region was called to order at 5:51 p.m. by the Chicago Region Member Gary Doherty.

It was determined that a quorum was present. The confidentiality statement was read by Jeremy Polk.

Minutes: The HRA approved the minutes for July and September of 2024. The motion to approve was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

Communications: The HRA was informed that there may be changes to the OneNet training requirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

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 a second time due to not having all information and a release. Motion to ratify the previous tabling entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9003 – Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital – A Spanish-speaking patient reports she went into an ER for a headache and stomachache. During the visit five security guards came in to restrain her and she was injected with a medication. She was then transferred to the behavioral health

unit. Was not given any paperwork until her 3rd day on the unit. Her husband was not notified of where she was. Her rights were not explained to her, and she often was interacting with nurses with no translator. The involuntary process and discharge were not explained to her. Medications were not explained to her, and she was told she would not be discharged unless she took her medication. She was kept for 5 days and was discharged after DRM went to the unit to meet with the patient. Motion to ratify accepting entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9004 – IL Masonic – A patient called reporting he was transferred to a hospital psychiatric unit after voluntarily going to an emergency to get checked out per police suggestion. He does not know why he was transferred to this hospital, which was very far from the original hospital. He did not know if he was voluntary or not and did not know about the discharge process. DRM explained his rights. DRM reached out to hospital social worker who indicated that the patient is involuntary as he has not wanted to sign in as voluntary. The social worker also indicated that the patient would be discharged later that evening. The HRA motioned to open and close this case as handled informally. Motion to ratify the opening and closing entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9005 – Riveredge – A family member a recipient called about a guardianship issue. DRM explained the process of securing legal guardianship. DRM explained this process previously in July. DRM then visited the recipient on 8/15/2024 and the recipient did not want to talk to the DRM. DRM then spoke to the SW for the recipient, and she indicated that the recipient will be petitioned for involuntary treatment. DRM then spoke with the recipient's mother for about 2 hours. The mother understands but is unsatisfied with the process of the mental health treatment. The recipient has no current complaints, and the recipient is an adult. There is potentially a treatment petition and an emergency guardianship petition. As there is no temporary order for guardianship the facility is not involving the family. This is the major issue. The facility has solicited information from the family but does not include the family in treatment planning. As of 8/21/2024 Family member is now temporary guardian. The HRA motioned to ratify the opening of this case as informal. Motion to ratify was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9006 – Hartgrove – Case handled informally. Motion to ratify opening and closing as handled informally entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9032 – CAU – This case was tabled. Motion to ratify tabling entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9038 – Riveredge – This case was tabled. Motion to ratify tabling entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

23-030-9042 – Ascension St. Mary's – This case was tabled. Motion to ratify tabling entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

24-030-9012 – Loretto – This case was tabled. Motion to ratify tabling entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

New Cases:

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 closed due to not receiving a release. The motion to not accept was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9007 – New Case – A complainant called about a service provider discriminating on a recipient of services due to a conflict with a guardian. It was reported that the service provider discontinued a recipient's services after a guardian spoke up about maltreatment. It was further reported that the facility has not provided any subsequent services to the recipient even though it is federally mandated. The HRA motioned to accept this case for investigation. The motion was entered by Tiffany. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

25-030-9008 – New Case – A complainant called indicating that he was detained illegally at a psychiatric hospital. The complainant informed the DRM that he never signed in voluntarily and was petitioned to stay in the facility. The complainant then indicated he received multiple forced medications without cause and was transported to another facility without explanation. The motion to accept this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9009 – New Case – A complainant called indicating that the service provider evicted a person under guardianship without notice. The HRA motioned to accept this case. The motion was entered by Tiffany. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9010 – New Case – A child who has an IEP which requires the need for air-conditioned transportation along with an aide. Prior to the school year starting, the school refused to provide transportation and offered a \$25/day stipend instead. This stipend does not cover the quoted cost of the transportation through the transportation agency that was used by the school last year, which is \$150 per ride. The issue has since been resolved and the school is now providing transportation but the complainant reports this is a systemic issue which happens every year. The HRA motioned to accept this case for investigation. The motion was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9011 – New Case – A patient reports that her Independent Ground Passes (IGP) have been suspended due to a COVID outbreak in the facility. DRM communicated with the patient's team who explained their guidelines during COVID. Patient's IGP passes have since resumed. The patient has additional concerns regarding another disruptive patient on the unit. Finally, the patient has complaints about lack of programming (no exercise, classes, etc.) DRM is in communication with the patient's team to facilitate a move to another unit. The HRA accepted this case for informal investigation and monitoring. The motion to accept was entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9012 – New Case – The DRM received a call from a patient reporting they were sexually assaulted by another patient, and it was reported to various charge nurses, but nothing was done about it. Caller also reports they were never provided their involuntary petition, rights forms, or medication list despite requesting it. Emergency meds were administered without cause three separate times with no restriction notices. The patient was also forced to take meds while sitting on the toilet. The HRA motioned to accept this case was entered by Tiffany. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9013 – Northwestern – A complainant called indicating that the facility was keeping her for no reason. DRM travelled to the facility and spoke with the recipient. The recipient was in the facility voluntarily and her 5-day was scheduled to expire on 10/7/2024 per the social worker. DRM followed up with the social worker and it was reported that the recipient was discharged timely. Motion to open and close as handled informally entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Tiffany. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9014 – New Case – DRM received a call from a recipient of services. The recipient indicated that she was given forced medications without cause. The recipient also informed the DRM that the facility had no working showers and provided no therapeutic services. Motion to accept this case entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with remaining votes.

25-030-9015 – Madden Mental Health Center – The DRM received a call from the recipient requesting her discharge. The recipient indicated that she has insurance and that a previous hospital transferred her to her current hospital without reason. She indicated that a family member that she was close to recently passed away. She stated she was sad but not suicidal. She also indicated that she is medication complainant. DRM contacted the assigned social worker and social work director and informed them of this recipient's request. The recipient was discharge after request. Motion to open and close as handled informally entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Tiffany. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

25-030-9016 – II DHS (South Suburban FCRC) – The DRM spoke with a recipient of services. The recipient indicated that he was denied SNAP and medical services through the Illinois Department of Human Services. DRM then took demographic information and forwarded this information to

the correct Family Community Resource Center. The recipient indicated that he completed all required documents for his redetermination and that he was not called. On 10/9/2024 - DRM received verification that the recipient's benefits were approved, and that the recipient was approved for one year. On 10/10/2024 - Recipient emailed the DRM. Motion to open and close as handled informally entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion carried with all 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:

23-030-9032 – CAU – This case was approved without issue. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

23-030-9038 – Riveredge – This case was approved without issue. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Linda. The motion was seconded by Michael. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

24-030-9010 – Mado Uptown - This case was approved without issue. The HRA had some discussion about the validity of being assigned one-to-one status. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Michael. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion carried with all remaining votes.

Accept responses, close, and publish:

23-030-9042 – Ascension St. Mary's – The HRA reviewed the response received from the facility. The HRA accepted the response as adequate. The case was closed and published. The motion was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Nicole.

24-030-9012 – Loretto – This case was closed and made ready for publishing. There was no provider response. The motion was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Joe.

Other unfinished business, announcements, and comments:

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Linda and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cervenka – Secretary