

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
July 18th, 2024

The regular stated meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 3:00 pm on Thursday, July 18th, 2024, at the State Office Building Conference Room B, 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Dixon, Janet Manning, Paulette Brock, Mary Auth, Ingrid Wheeler, Adam Casario, and LaVeda Weidner-Cravens

Absent: Dan McCarthy and Allison Frees-Williams

Staff: Lara Davis

Guests: None

Adam Casario stated that there was a quorum present.

Adam Casario read the confidentiality statement reminded everyone 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

None

COMMUNICATION: Vote for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. It was agreed that Adam Casario would remain Chairperson, Ingrid Wheeler would stay as Vice-Chairperson and Paulette Brock would stay as Secretary.

MINUTES

The May 2024 HRA Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Mary Auth motioned that the minutes be approved. LaVeda Weidner-Cravens seconded, and the motion carried.

The January, March and May 2024 HRA Board Executive Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Paulette Brock motioned to keep the minutes confidential. Ingrid Wheeler seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

A. Ratifications:

None

B. New Complaints:

24-060-9020 (Hospital Psychiatric Unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the facility took away the individual's clothing and had the individual wear paper clothes. Allegedly, the individual was cold, but staff refused to give the individual a blanket or sweater for 3 days. Allegedly, patients are not allowed access to their rooms for 12 hours a day and must use a community restroom that is not supplied with hand soap. The complaint alleges the facility failed to give the individual a copy of her voluntary admission, patient bill of rights or request for discharge papers. Allegedly, patients are not allowed to use the telephone from 9pm-9am and during group therapy as the telephones are shut off during this time. The complaint alleges the facility does not post advocacy agency information and phone numbers as required. Mary Auth made a motion to not accept the complaint due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

24-060-9021 (Mental Health Facility) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the facility refused to discharge the patient even though the patient was suitable for discharge. Allegedly, the patient requested discharge on a Monday and the facility automatically told the patient they would not discharge him for 5 business days. Allegedly, the facility will not discharge patients on weekends. The complaint alleges the facility does not have advocacy agencies information posted. Allegedly, staff refuse to provide contact information for advocacy agencies. Mary Auth made a motion to not accept the complaint due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

24-060-9023 (Mental Health Facility) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual was verbally attacked and threatened by a peer while staff watched. Allegedly, the individual was inappropriately discharged as a result of being attacked by the peer. The complaint alleges the facility failed to keep the individual's personal health information confidential. Allegedly, the individual's medical health papers were left unattended in a vehicle. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the complaint due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

24-060-9025 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the facility is not following residents preferences when it comes to hair care and styles. Allegedly, the facility is refusing to provide training for staff or hire a professional hair stylist to properly care for residents hair. Paulette Brock made a motion not to accept the case due to the case being handled informally. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

24-060-9026 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the facility is not following residents preferences when it comes to hair care and styles. Allegedly, the facility is refusing to provide training for staff or hire a professional hair stylist to properly care for residents hair. Paulette Brock made a motion not to accept the case due to the case being handled informally. The motion was properly seconded by Ingrid Wheeler. Motion carried.

24-060-9027 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the facility is not following residents preferences when it comes to hair care and styles. Allegedly, the facility is refusing to provide training for staff or hire a professional hair stylist to properly care for residents hair.

Mary Auth made a motion not to accept the case due to the case being handled informally. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

24-060-9028 (Town Government) Complaint Summary: The complaint states a town is redeveloping their downtown area. Allegedly, the new design will not be accessible for people with disabilities. The complaint alleges the new design will close the street from vehicle traffic so there will be no parking for people with disabilities to access business in the downtown area. Sandra Dixon made a motion not to accept the case due to the case being handled informally. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

24-060-9029 (Hospital Psychiatric Unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the individual is disabled and needs assistance in order to shower. Allegedly, staff refuse to give the individual a shower. The complaint alleges the individual is not feed at the same time as other patients. Allegedly, the individual has to wait an hour after all other patients eat before the individual is given food. Mary Auth made a motion table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

24-060-9030 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the student has an Individual Education Program (IEP) that the school district is not following. Allegedly, the student's IEP states the student is to have a certified special education teacher, but the teacher has been on leave since April 23, 2024, and the substitute is not a certified special education teacher. Allegedly, the students' parents were not notified that a non-certified teacher was working with the student. The complaint alleges the student was suspended for behaviors relating to the students disability. Paulette Brock made a motion table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

24-060-9031 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the school district changed extended school year (ESY) services for all students with Individualized Education Program (IEP). Allegedly, the school district modified all IEPs to change the length of extended school year for all students regardless of the student's needs. Sandra Dixon made a motion accept the case. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

24-060-9032 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the school district failed to evaluate two students for Individualized Education Program after receiving written request from the guardian. Allegedly, a student was suspended for behaviors relating to the students disability. Sandra Dixon made a motion to accept the case. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

24-060-9033 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint states the individual was held down by staff while staff prayed over the individual. Allegedly, the individual was then taken into a private room and not allowed to leave while staff lectured the individual about his religious believes. The complaint states the guardian was not notified of this incident. Mary Auth made a motion table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

24-060-9034 (Jail) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges an inmate has not received mental health or medical care since arriving at the jail. Allegedly, the inmate informed jail staff of his disabilities and requested to see a counselor to obtain necessary medication but the jail has failed to get the needed treatment. The complaint alleges the jail is not providing healthy or nutritious meals daily. Allegedly, inmates are not receiving 2000 calories a day. The complaint alleges the jail is infested with roaches and there is black mold in the showers. Mary Auth made a motion to accept the case. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9001 (Hospital Psych Unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the facility had 10 employees hold down a patient for refusing to sit in a wheelchair. Allegedly, the patient was not able to breathe while being forcibly held down and restrained to a bed. Adam Casario made a motion table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Mary Auth made a motion to enter executive session at 3:32pm. Pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) and (10) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20), Section 3955/10 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955) and Section 110/5 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110); the motion was seconded by Adam Casario and carried. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss confidential aspects of cases. The HRA returned to open session at 3:51pm having taken no action in closed session. Executive minutes were recorded.

A. Draft Report:

24-060-9022 – Champaign Unit #4 School District– Mary Auth motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Motion carried.

24-060-9024 – Palm Terrace– Ingrid Wheeler motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

B. Case Closures:

24-060-9010 – Shaprio – Ingrid Wheeler motioned to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

24-060-9013 – Shaprio –Paulette Brock motioned to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

24-060-9015 – Marion County Horizon – Mary Auth motioned to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

24-060-9018 – Sarah Bush Hospital- Ingrid Wheeler motioned to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

C. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

Paulette Brock motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly second by Mary Auth. Motion carried.

Adam Casario adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Secretary

