

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
November 21st, 2024

The regular stated meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 3:05 pm on Thursday, November 21st, 2024, at the State Office Building Conference Room A, 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Dixon, Paulette Brock, Mary Auth, and LaVeda Weidner-Cravens.

Absent: Ingrid Wheeler, Janet Manning, Adam Casario, Allison Frees-Williams.
and Dan McCarthy

Staff: Lara Davis

Guests: None

Mary Auth stated that there was not a quorum present.

Mary Auth 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:

2025 Meeting schedule was reviewed.

MINUTES

The September 2024 HRA Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

A vote to approve minutes from September 2024 will occur at the next meeting with a quorum.

New Business:

A. Ratifications:

25-060-9003 (School District) School District failed to provide effective communication by denying a person with a disability an ADA accommodation (Accepted). Sandra Dixon motioned to table ratification of case openings. LaVeda Weidner-Cravens seconded. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

B. New Complaints:

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. Mary Auth made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9004 (Hospital Psychiatric Unit) Complaint Summary The complaint alleges the individual was voluntarily admitted into a psychiatric hospital; however, the individual did not have the capacity to consent. Allegedly, the individual has no memory of agreeing to be admitted or signing the paperwork. Allegedly, the individual was not explained his rights or the admission process. Allegedly, the facility failed to explain the discharge process to the patient. The complaint alleges the facility failed to give the individual a copy of his voluntary admission or the patient bill of rights. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9005 (Hospital Psychiatric Unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual had their walker taken away by staff for unknown reasons. Allegedly, staff threatened to give the individual medication by injection when they became upset about the walker being taken away. The complaint alleges staff would not allow the individual to request discharge. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9006 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the school district denied the recipient an ADA accommodation request on two occasions. Allegedly, the recipient asked to record a meeting she was to attend at the school, but the request was denied. Allegedly, the school district failed to provide a reasoning or alternative accommodations for the individual. Paulette Brock made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9007 (Jail) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges an inmate did not receive mental health or medical care for three months. Allegedly, the inmate was injured during his arrest, but the jail did not provide medical care. Allegedly, the inmate requested medical and mental health care daily for 3 months, but the jail refused to provide care. The complaint alleges jail staff watched as the inmate was beat by another inmate for 3 minutes. As a result of the beating the inmate needed stiches and had a concussion but the jail refused to provide medical care. The complaint alleges the jail is unsanitary with mold and rust in the showers and sinks. Allegedly, the drinking water is brown and jail staff will not provide bottled water to inmates. Allegedly,

inmates laundry is not done for 3 weeks and inmates are not given toilet paper for over 2 weeks even when asking daily. Sandra Dixon made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9008 (Hospital Psychiatric Unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual arrived at the facility with a head injury that the hospital failed to treat. Allegedly, the individual was made to believe he would be discharged if he agreed to give blood and urine however, the facility instead admitted the individual to the psychiatric unit. The complaint alleges the individual was injected with two shots without consent. Allegedly, the individual is not aware what medication he was given but when he woke up, he was in the psychiatric unit. Sandra Dixon made a motion to table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9009 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual was moved from a CILA home to an apartment with 24 hour care by facility staff. Allegedly, the individual has physical limitations, and the apartment is not ADA accessible. Allegedly, staff are now saying the apartment is not suitable for the individual and wants to move the individual back into the CILA. Paulette Brock made a motion to table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9010 (CILA) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the facility is allowing one resident in a group home to threaten and abuse the individual and other peers in a group home. Allegedly, a peer is loud and disturbing the other residents and staff is not doing anything to stop the behaviors. Allegedly, the resident is screaming and yelling at all hours of the night and the other residents are not able to sleep. Mary Auth made a motion to not accept the complaint due to handling informally. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9011 (Hospital psychiatric unit) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual was given medication without consent. Allegedly, staff injected the individual with medication because the individual complained to staff about her food tray. Sandra Dixon made a motion to table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

25-060-9012 (Developmental Center) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the Individual's guardian gave consent on 1/26/24 for the individual to have a tooth extracted and fillings done on four teeth. Allegedly, the facility failed to have the individual's tooth extracted until 10/4/24 and the filling were never done. Due to the lack of dental care the individual now needs those four teeth extracted in addition to four other teeth needing to be extracted. Mary Auth made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda

Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

The HRA did not enter closed session due to the lack of a quorum.

A. Draft Report:

24-060-9032 – Champaign Unit #4 School District– Mary Auth motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

B. Case Closures:

24-060-9022 – Champaign Unit #4 School District – Paulette Brock motioned to table the complaint and send a letter requesting a response. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

24-060-9031 – Champaign Unit #4 School District I –Mary Auth motioned to accept the response, close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

24-060-9034 – Effingham County Jail –Mary Auth motioned to accept the response, close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Additional vote obtained from Adam Casario and Allison Frees-Williams after the meeting. The vote will be ratified at the next meeting.

C. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

Sandra Dixon motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly second by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

Mary Auth adjourned the meeting at 3:47pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Secretary