

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
September 17th, 2024

The regular stated meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 3:01 pm on Tuesday, September 17th, 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, Dan McCarthy and Allison Frees-Williams.

Absent: LaVeda Weidner-Cravens.

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:

None

MINUTES

The July 2024 HRA Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Mary Auth motioned that the minutes be approved with corrections. Sandra Dixon seconded, and the motion carried.

The July 2024 HRA Board Executive Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Mary Auth motioned that the minutes be approved. Sandra Dixon seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

A. Ratifications:

None

B. New Complaints:

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 fed 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. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. 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. Sandra Dixon made a motion accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Mary Auth. 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 religion. The complaint states the guardian was not notified of this incident. Mary Auth made a motion not accept the complaint due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by Dan McCarthy. 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. Mary Auth made a motion to table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

25-060-9002 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint states a special education student was abused by another student in a special education classroom. Allegedly, the school district failed to create a safety plan to keep the student safe from abuse. Allegedly, the school district failed to address the mothers concerns for the students safety. Additionally, the complaint alleges the school district refused to provide the mother access to the students record including a copy of the incident report. Mary Auth made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

25-060-9003 (School District) Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the school district denied the recipient an ADA accommodation request. Allegedly, the recipient asked to record a meeting she was to attend at the school, but the request was denied. However, the school offered to have detailed notes taken at the meeting and provide the recipient a copy of the notes. Allegedly, the recipient is being denied the meeting notes per the accommodation request. Paulette Brock made a motion table the complaint and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Mary Auth. Motion carried.

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. 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:

Dan McCarthy made a motion to enter executive session at 3:17pm. 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 3:40pm having taken no action in closed session. Executive minutes were recorded.

A. Draft Report:

24-060-9031 – Champaign Unit #4 School District– Sandra Dixon motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

24-060-9034 – Effingham County Jail– Sandra Dixon motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Motion carried.

B. Case Closures:

24-060-9022 – Champaign Unit #4 School District – Adam Casario motioned to table the complaint and send a letter requesting a response. The motion was properly seconded by Dan McCarthy. Motion carried.

24-060-9024 – Palm Terrace –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 Janet Manning. Motion carried.

C. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adam Casario adjourned the meeting at 3:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pauline Brock

Secretary