

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at The Villa – Pizza Villa, 169 East Vienna St., Anna, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Clarence Russell, Mary McMahan, Paul Jones, Gretchin Emrick & Kathy Rambeau. Blair Anderson joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Members Absent: Rebecca Lewey

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: Tiffany Beisner

Minutes: Open meeting minutes from November 2023, January 2024 and March 2024 were reviewed and the board had no changes. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2023, January 2024 and March 2024. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. The executive minutes from January, March, May, July, September, and November 2023 were reviewed. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to keep the executive minutes from 2023 confidential. Mary McMahan seconded, and it carried.

Communications: OneNet training access and completion was discussed. Clarence Russell reported having some issues accessing. The board has 2 vacancies for community members.

Other New Business: After discussion, Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve Tiffany Beisner as the vocational rehabilitation provider member. Clarence Russell seconded and it carried.

Ratifications:

From January: Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the ratifications as follows, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

New Complaints:

24-110-9013 State Operated Facility – The issues were resolved; not accepting the case was ratified.

24-110-9014 State Operated Facility – The issues were resolved informally; not accepting the case due to informal resolution was ratified.

24-110-9015 State Operated Facility – Case opening ratified.

24-110-9016 State Operated Facility – Tabling case opening due to the inability to discuss details in closed session because there was no quorum was ratified.

24-110-9017 Jail – Tabling case opening to request a policy to review was ratified.

24-110-9018 Jail – Not accepting the case due to the issues being resolved by the jail standards division of the Illinois Department of Corrections was ratified.

Draft Reports:

23-110-9001 Chester – Draft report approval was ratified.

23-110-9002 Chester – Draft report approval was ratified.

23-110-9007 Chester – Draft report approval was ratified.

Closures:

22-110-9006 Chester – Case closure was ratified.

23-110-9009 Sparta Terrace – Case closure was ratified.

Ratifications from March: Mary McMahan made a motion to approve the ratifications as follows, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Openings:

24-110-9016 State Operated Facility – Tabling case opening to have a quorum to discuss details in closed session was ratified.

24-110-9017 Jail – Tabling case opening to pursue informal resolution was ratified.

24-110-9018 Jail – Case opening was ratified.

24-110-9019 ICFDD – Not accepting the case and referring it to a social service agency was ratified.

24-110-9020 State Operated Facility – Not accepting the case due to no release being received was ratified.

24-110-9021 State Operated Facility – Not accepting the case due to the issue being resolved was ratified.

24-110-9022 State Operated Facility – Case opening was ratified.

24-110-9023 State Operated Facility – Not accepting the complaint due to the issue being resolved was ratified.

24-110-9024 State Operated Facility – Case opening was ratified.

24-110-9025 School – Case opening for policy review was ratified.

Draft Reports:

23-110-9011 Choate Mental Health – Draft report approval was ratified.

23-110-9012 Bliss Haven – Draft report approval was ratified.

23-110-9013 Choate Developmental Center – Draft report approval was ratified.

23-110-9014 Horizon Healthcare – Draft report approval was ratified.

24-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – Draft report approval was ratified.

Closures:

23-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – Tabling case closure to allow time for proof of retraining was ratified.

23-110-9002 Chester Mental Health – Case closure was ratified.

23-110-9007 Chester Mental Health – Tabling case closure to allow time for a Utilization Review to be completed and a revised treatment plan to be received was ratified.

New Complaints:

24-110-9026 State Operated Facility – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights. Due to low staff levels, patients are not able to go on outings and some outside medical appointments have allegedly been cancelled. Patients have also allegedly had meals served in their room due to not having enough staff to escort to the dining room. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to open the case, Paul Jones seconded, and it carried.

Unfinished Business: Paul Jones made a motion to go into closed session at 6:45 p.m. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Case progress was reviewed for 24-110-9005, 24-110-9010, 24-110-9015, 24-110-9018, 24-110-9022, 24-110-9024 & 24-110-9025. Draft Reports were reviewed for 24-110-9003, 24-110-9006, 24-110-9009, 24-110-9011 & 24-110-9012. Case closures were considered for 23-110-9001, 23-110-9007, 23-110-9011, 23-110-9012, 23-110-9013, 23-110-9014, 24-110-9001 & 24-110-9007.

For confidentiality reasons, the following new complaints were discussed in closed session:

24-110-9016 State Operated Facility – alleges the education department was shut down several times recently due to staff shortage on units. This is an issue that was addressed by the HRA in another case in March 2023. The substantiated report also contained a strong suggestion that the facility develop a plan on how to address staffing issues to avoid closure in the future. The board discussed opening a new complaint or reaching out to the facility's oversight entity to address as an ongoing issue. The board agreed to refer the case to the oversight entity. Upon returning to open session Clarence Russell made a motion to refer the case to the Department of Human Services. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9017 Jail – The policies requested were reviewed. The board did not have any concerns with the policies. The allegations presented to the HRA were abuse in nature and had been reported to the appropriate entity. Since the policies looked ok, the board agreed to not accept the complaint as beyond the scope of its authority. Upon returning to open session, Clarence Russell made a motion to not accept the complaint, Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

Case Progress Reports:

24-110-9005 Camp Little Giant – alleges discrimination based on disability. Community day training services were interviewed along with some other community members who have been involved with the camp. Some new concerns were brought to the HRA. The board members present agreed that a second site visit should be scheduled to discuss the new concerns and to get more information on the advisory board that the Director informed the HRA had been created. The case is still under investigation.

24-110-9010 Lawrence Correctional Facility – Alleges inadequate mental health treatment. A site visit was completed. Waiting on documents requested to be provided. The case is still under investigation.

24-110-9015 Chester Mental Health – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights for telephone use. The chart was reviewed and interviews completed. The case is ready for report.

24-110-9018 Franklin County Jail – alleges inadequate mental health treatment. Allegedly physician is refusing to see the recipient or give medications that he typically takes. Site visit was completed. Waiting on documentation requested to be received. The case is still under investigation.

24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health – alleges inappropriate placement. Recipient has dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disabilities. The site visit was completed. Need to review the chart. The case is still under investigation. Gretchin Emrick left the meeting at 7:43 due to a conflict of interest and returned at 8:07 following the discussion.

24-110-9024 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction by not allowing the recipient a grounds pass without the recipient asking. The recipient reportedly did not know it needed to be requested. After the independent service coordinator's involvement, the facility agreed to give a grounds pass to the recipient. The site visit was completed. The chart still needs to be reviewed. The case is still under investigation. Mary McMahan left the meeting at 7:53 due to a conflict of interest and returned at 8:10 following the discussion.

24-110-9025 West Frankfort High School – alleges transition services are not occurring for several students with special needs. Allegedly, students are not added to the PUNS list or provided any type of work or school opportunities after graduation. The site visit was completed, and documentation has been received. The case is ready for report.

Draft Reports:

24-110-9003 Franklin County Jail – The board reviewed the draft report and had one addition to the recommendation. Blair Anderson made a motion to approve the draft report as revised. Mary McMahan seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9006 Chester Mental Health – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Clarence Russell moved to approve the draft report. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9009 Chester Mental Health – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Kathy Rambeau moved to approve the draft report. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9011 St. Mary's Behavioral Health – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Mary McMahan moved to approve the draft report. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9012 Chester Mental Health – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Clarence Russell moved to approve the draft report. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

Closures:

23-110-9001 Chester Mental Health - alleges a recipient is not being served in the least restrictive environment. Alleges lack of guardian involvement and alleges inadequate care and treatment. The board reviewed the training records provided and had no other concerns. Blair Anderson moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

23-110-9007 Chester Mental Health – alleges a recipient is not being served in the least restrictive environment. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. The board reviewed the treatment records and discussed addressing the lack of desire to transfer in treatment. Mary McMahan moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

23-110-9011 Choate Mental Health – alleges inadequate treatment planning. No response required and none was provided. Gretchin Emrick abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest. Blair Anderson moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

23-110-9012 Bliss Haven – alleges inadequate treatment planning. No response required and none was provided. Mary McMahan moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

23-110-9013 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights. The board reviewed the response and had no further concerns. Mary McMahan abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest. Clarence Russell moved to close the case and make the report and response part of the public record, per the facility's request. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

23-110-9014 Horizon Healthcare – alleges inadequate medical care and discrimination based on disability. No response was required, and none was provided. Blair Anderson moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – alleges inadequate treatment. No response was required, and none was provided. Clarence Russell made a motion to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Mary McMahan seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9007 Marion County Horizon – alleges inadequate treatment planning. No response was required, and none was provided. Mary McMahan moved to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Blair Anderson seconded, and it carried.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on July 18, 2024 at Pagliai's Pizza in Carbondale.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary