

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Pagliai's Pizza, 509 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m. Vice-Chairperson, Kathy Rambeau, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Clarence Russell, Gretchin Emrick, Kathy Rambeau, Rebecca Lewey & Tiffany Beisner.

Members Absent: Paul Jones & Mary McMahan

Staff Present: Kim Conway & Gene Seaman

Guests: Brian Croft

Minutes: Open meeting minutes from May 2024 were reviewed and the board had no changes. Rebecca Lewey made a motion to approve the minutes. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. The executive minutes from January, March & May 2024 were reviewed. Clarence Russell made a motion to keep the executive minutes confidential. Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

Communications: OneNet training access and completion was discussed. The board has 2 vacancies for community members. Tiffany Beisner's appointment to the board was approved by the agency Director.

Other New Business: The board discussed Fiscal Year 2025 Officers for the board. Kathy Rambeau made a motion that Paul Jones remain as Chairperson, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. Clarence Russell made a motion to appoint Kathy Rambeau as Vice-Chairperson, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried. Kathy Rambeau made a motion that Rebecca Lewey remain as Secretary, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

25-110-9001 State operated facility – alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment planning, specifically placement. A recipient was allegedly transferred to another state operated facility without guardian notification or involvement in the transition meeting. When the guardian learned of the upcoming move and called the facility, the recipient was

already transferred. Gretchin Emrick made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9002 State Operated Facility – alleges a recipient is inappropriately placed. Allegedly, a recipient was placed on a mental health unit while under a judicial commitment order for a developmental center. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation pending receipt of a release of information, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Unfinished Business: A board member brought up concerns regarding individuals that do not have capacity to be their own guardian and have no family or friends able to serve as guardian. These individuals are having trouble getting a state guardian appointed. Some county's judges are requiring that the Petition be filed by an attorney. Most individuals do not have funds to pay for a private attorney and homes are unwilling to utilize resources that way. These individuals are agreeing to medications, placement, and other treatment decisions without full understanding of the risks/benefits etc... The board member asked if there is anything that can be done from a rights perspective as they have inadequate representation or assistance. It was agreed that Kim Conway would try to locate resources and get back to the board.

Clarence Russell made a motion to go into closed session at 6:09 p.m. Tiffany Beisner 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 & 24-110-9026. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9003, 24-110-9006, 24-110-9009, 24-110-9011 & 24-110-9012.

Case Progress Reports:

24-110-9005 Camp Little Giant – alleges discrimination based on disability. Brian Croft, Director, was present during the discussion. The board reported that the second site visit was completed in July to observe camp. Brian shared information on the new advisory board, the future of the camp and discussed some of the concerns that were recently reported to the HRA. The board requested some additional documentation from Mr. Croft and he left the meeting at 6:56 pm. The case is still under investigation.

24-110-9010 Lawrence Correctional Facility – Alleges inadequate mental health treatment. A site visit was completed. Documentation was received and the case is now ready for report.

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. Gretchin Emrick left the meeting at 7:32 pm due to a conflict of interest and returned at 7:57 pm when the discussion had concluded. The site visit was completed. Need to review the chart. The case is still under investigation.

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.

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.

24-110-9026 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights. Due to low staff levels, recipients are not able to go on outings, and some medical appointments have been cancelled. Site visit needs to be scheduled.

Draft Reports: None

Closures:

24-110-9003 Franklin County Jail – The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. There was discussion that recommendation #2 was not fully addressed and the board asked for more information. Clarence Russell made a motion to table case closure and request additional information, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9006 Chester Mental Health – No response was required but a response to the HRA's suggestion was received and reviewed by the board. Rebecca Lewey made a motion to close the case and make the findings part of the public record. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9009 Chester Mental Health – No response was required, and none was received. Clarence Russell moved to close the case and make the findings part of the public record, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9011 St. Mary's Behavioral Health – The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. The board discussed tabling to allow time for additional information to be received. Clarence Russell moved to table case closure to allow time for the information to be received, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9012 Chester Mental Health – No response was required, and none was received. Gretchin Emrick moved to close the case and make the findings part of the public record. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2024 at Pizza Villa in Anna.

Clarence Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, Kathy Rambeau seconded and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary