

**Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 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 5:13 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Clarence Russell, Gretchin Emrick, Kathy Rambeau, Paul Jones & Tiffany Beisner.

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Lewey

**Staff Present:** Kim Conway

**Guests:** Eric Price and Brian Croft

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from July were reviewed. No changes were made. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the minutes, Paul Jones seconded and it carried.

**Communications:** OneNet training access and completion was discussed. The board has 2 vacancies for community members.

**Other New Business:** The board met new applicant, Eric Price and discussed his qualifications and experience. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve Eric's application to join the board, Gretchen Emrick seconded, and it carried.

**Ratifications:** None

**New Complaints:**

**25-110-9003 State Operated Facility** – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights. Due to staffing issues, recipients are not allowed to go to the dining area to eat and are eating on the unit. Initial inquiries revealed that this is mostly on the weekends and is for safety reasons. Very seldom does it occur through the week and also is not all day, could just be one shift per day that they eat on the unit. The board discussed that there had been recent investigations by the HRA of restrictions due to low staff. The board agreed that it would be more impactful to send a letter to the Department of Mental Health to make them aware of ongoing staffing issues than to open another case on the restrictions due to low staff. Paul Jones made a motion to not accept the case for investigation, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9004 State Operated Facility** – alleges inadequate treatment planning. A recipient is told he is at the top of the transfer list to go to another state operated facility closer to a significant other, but others are still being transferred ahead of this recipient. During information gathering, a DHS representative for the facility told the HRA that part of the reason for delay in transfer is the recipient's sex offender status. The facility of preference has a vulnerable population so there are limited beds available that would be appropriate for this recipient to move into. The board discussed that this is a lateral move so is not a complaint of least restrictive environment. The treatment team including guardian agrees that state facility is the least restrictive at this time. The treatment plan states he is ready for a transfer, so the issue becomes bed availability. Since the facility is not objecting to a transfer and has it in the plan to transfer when a bed becomes available, the board agreed not to accept the complaint for investigation. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to not accept the case, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9005 CILA homes** – alleges some CILA homes do not have an appropriate Human Rights and Ethics Committee in place. There are recipients without guardians that may not understand what they are signing and agreeing to in treatment planning and without a proper HREC in place, they have no one advocating for their rights. Information gathered was shared with the board. The board agreed that of the CILA homes looked into, there were appropriate HREC's in place. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to not accept the complaint for investigation. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9006 Community Medical Group** – alleges discrimination based on disability. Allegedly a physician is refusing to treat individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The board agreed to open the case as a policy review if no releases are received, but if releases can be obtained to look at specific cases, that would be best. Paul Jones made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9007 Community Hospital** – alleges inadequate care. A physician allegedly was going to refer a patient to a specialty clinic but that never happened. When the patient followed up with the physician, the physician did not know what the patient was referring to. Clarence Russell made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9008 Jail** – alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Paul Jones made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9009 State Operated Facility** – alleges inadequate treatment. A recipient missed a neurological appointment due to low staff levels. When the recipient's condition worsened and they were sent to a community hospital, it was discovered the recipient had suffered multiple strokes. Due to the higher medical care required, it is unlikely the recipient will be

returning to the facility. The board discussed tabling the case to see if the recipient returns to the facility or if a guardian is appointed so that a release could be obtained. Clarence Russell made a motion to table case opening, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

**25-110-9010 State Operated Facility** - alleges lack of guardian involvement. A recipient had a tooth extraction without guardian consent. The guardian agreed it was necessary but did not know about it until after it happened. It was reportedly not an emergent situation. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Paul Jones made a motion to go into closed session at 6:53 p.m. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Case progress was reviewed for 24-110-9018, 24-110-9022, 24-110-9024, 24-110-9025, 24-110-9026, 25-110-9001 & 25-110-9002. Draft reports were considered for 24-110-9005, 24-110-9010, 24-110-9015, Case closures were considered for 24-110-9003 & 24-110-9011.

### **Case Progress Reports:**

**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. The report is in progress

**24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health** – alleges inappropriate placement. Gretchin Emrick left the meeting at 7:07 pm due to a conflict of interest and returned at 7:13 pm when the discussion had concluded. The chart review was completed. The case is ready for report.

**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 case is ready for report.

**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 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. Additional information has been requested. The case is still under investigation.

**25-110-9001 State operated facility** – alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment planning, specifically placement. The site visit is scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

**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. The release was received. The site visit needs to be scheduled.

#### **Draft Reports:**

**24-110-9005 Camp Little Giant** – Guest, Brian Croft, was present for the discussion of this case at the beginning of closed session. He left the meeting at 7:05 pm. The board discussed the draft report findings with Mr. Croft and informed him that a copy of the report will be mailed following the board meeting. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the draft report of findings as stated. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

**24-110-9010 Lawrence Correctional Facility** – The board reviewed the draft report of findings and had no changes. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the draft report. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

**24-110-9015 Chester Mental Health** – The board reviewed the draft report of findings and had no changes. Tiffany Beisner moved to approve the draft report as stated. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

#### **Closures:**

**24-110-9003 Franklin County Jail** – The board reviewed the additional response to the report of findings. The board had no further concerns. Kathy Rambeau made a motion close the case and make the findings public. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

**24-110-9011 St. Mary's Behavioral Health** – The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. The board had no other concerns. Clarence Russell made a motion to close the case and make the report public along with the response, per St. Mary's request. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

**Announcements from the Chair:** The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2024 at The Brickhouse Grill in Anna.

Kathy Rambeau made a motion to return to open session at 7:56 pm, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Kathy Rambeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary