

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 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 5:02 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was not present.

Members Present: Clarence Russell, Kathy Rambeau, Paul Jones & Eric Price

Members Absent: Rebecca Lewey, Tiffany Beisner & Gretchin Emrick

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: Rockette Jaros

Minutes: Meeting minutes from September were reviewed. No changes were made. Due to no quorum being present, the minutes could not be approved, and the action was tabled.

Communications: OneNet training access and completion was discussed. The board has 2 vacancies for community members. There is a possible revision to the HRA mandates that would allow the board to have between 7-9 members. This would also allow the minimum number for a quorum to change. Kim will keep everyone updated. Kim shared with the board the names of the new administration at Choate Mental Health & Developmental Center. Kim shared with the board that Chester Mental Health and Choate Mental Health are reallocating beds which should allow for more bed availability for people stepping down from Chester or entering DHS from jails.

Other New Business: 2025 HRA board meeting dates were set as follows:

January 16th in Carbondale

March 20th in Anna

May 8th in Metropolis

July 17th in Carbondale

September 18th in Anna

November 20th in Anna

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

25-110-9011 CILA Home – alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit a recipient solely for a diabetes diagnosis. Release received. All present agreed to open and outside votes will be obtained from absent members.

25-110-9012 CILA Home - alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit a recipient solely for a diabetes diagnosis. Release received. All present agreed to open and outside votes will be obtained from absent members.

25-110-9013 Community Hospital – alleges inadequate care and treatment. A recipient was taken to the hospital for evaluation following a long seizure. Allegedly the hospital did not have a Hoyer lift to transfer the recipient properly. Also alleged the recipient was over medicated and not cleaned properly. All present agreed to open the case pending receipt of a release of information. Outside votes will be obtained from absent members.

Unfinished Business:

Since there was no quorum, there was no closed session. The following cases were discussed confidentially in open session.

Case progress was reviewed for 24-110-9022, 24-110-9024, 24-110-9025, 24-110-9026, 25-110-9001, 25-110-9002, 25-110-9006, 25-110-9007, 25-110-9008 & 25-110-9010. Draft reports were considered for 24-110-9018 & 24-110-9025. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9005, 24-110-9010 & 24-110-9015.

Case Progress Reports:

24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health – alleges inappropriate placement. 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. 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 Choate Developmental Center – alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment planning, specifically placement. The site visit was completed. Records need to be requested from another facility because the recipient was transferred and the records followed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9002 Choate Mental Health – 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.

25-110-9006 Gastroenterology Care of Southern Illinois – alleges discrimination based on disability. Allegedly a physician is refusing to treat individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. No releases have been received so the HRA will proceed with scheduling a site visit for a policy review only.

25-110-9007 Deaconess Illinois Family Practice Clinic– 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. Site visit needs to be scheduled.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Site visit needs to be scheduled. The board agreed to proceed with a virtual visit and schedule in person if needed later.

25-110-9010 Chester Mental Health - 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. The chart was reviewed. Some staff interviews need to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

Draft Reports:

24-110-9018 Franklin County Jail – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. All present agreed to approve the report and send to the facility. Outside votes will be obtained from those who were absent.

24-110-9025 West Frankfort High School – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. All present agreed to approve the report and send to the facility. Outside votes will be obtained from those who were absent.

Closures:

24-110-9005 Camp Little Giant – Guest, Rockette Jaros, was present for the discussion of this case. She left the meeting at 6:35 pm. The board discussed the response to the report of findings. Rockette shared some outreach things they have planned to raise awareness of their programs and what her goals are as the new program coordinator for outdoor education and inclusion. The board discussed sharing the report with the Department of Human Services (DHS) for informational purposes and to explore some alternative funding sources that might be available. All present agreed to close the case and make the report and response part of the public record. All agreed to send the report to the DHS for informational purposes. Outside votes will be obtained from those who were absent.

24-110-9010 Lawrence Correctional Facility – No response was required, none was received. Those present agreed to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Outside votes will be obtained from those who were absent.

24-110-9015 Chester Mental Health – No response was required, none was received. Those present agreed to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Outside votes will be obtained from those who were absent.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2025 at Pagliai's Pizza in Carbondale.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary