

**HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
NORTHWEST REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103**

PRESENT: Kacie Jensen (**Chair**), Colleen Magee (**Co-Chair**), Colleen Parks, Dr. Erin Wade and Zoe Wedel

ABSENT: N/A

STAFF: Nicole S. Weathersby, DRM

GUESTS: Ben Diaz (possible new HRA member)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Northwest Region was called to order at 4:10 pm by the Chair, Kacie Jensen. Introductions and greetings were completed, and it was determined that a quorum was present of NW HRA members and appropriate business could be finalized. Nicole S. Weathersby - Disability Rights Manager, read the confidentiality statement.

Minutes

The executive and regular meeting minutes from **March 5, 2024**, were accepted as presented via a motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Colleen M., carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members. The regular meeting minutes from **April 30, 2024**, were accepted as presented via a motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Colleen M. and carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members. The regular meeting minutes from **June 4, 2024**, were accepted as presented via a motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Colleen M. and carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members. The regular meeting minutes from **September 10, 2024**, were accepted as presented via a motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Colleen M. and carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members. The regular meeting minutes from **October 8, 2024**, were accepted as presented via a motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Colleen M. and carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members.

New Business

Ratifications

The following cases/complaints were addressed and ratified via a motion to accept as presented/written (numerous actions on various cases) as listed below and on the meeting ratification sheet in the meeting packet by Collen M. and seconded by Dr. Wade carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members:

Complaint Acceptance or Tabling

All the following case actions listed below were ratified at this meeting:

#24-080-9019 = Accept & open complaint, #24-080-9020 = Accept & open complaint, #24-080-9021 = Accept & open complaint, #24-080-9027 = Table complaint & send inquiry letter, #24-080-9028 = Table complaint & send inquiry letter, #24-080-9028 = Accept & open complaint, #24-080-9029 = Accept & open complaint, #24-080-9030 = Deny & close complaint, #25-080-9001 = Accept & open complaint, #25-080-9002 = Voted to send another consent via certified mail, #25-080-9003 = Accept & open complaint, #25-080-9007 = Table complaint & send inquiry letter, #25-080-9008 = Accept & open complaint, #25-080-9009 = Accept & open complaint, pending receipt of consent, #25-080-9010 = Accept & open complaint.

Complaint Closures & Denial

All the following case actions listed below were ratified at this meeting:

#23-080-9010 = *Close complaint*, #24-080-9004 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having enough information or evidence provided at this time, #24-080-9010 = *Close complaint*, #24-080-9015 = *Close complaint*, #24-080-9022 = *Deny & close complaint*, #24-080-9023 = *Deny & close complaint*, #24-080-9024 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having enough information or evidence provided at this time, #24-080-9025 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having enough information or evidence provided at this time, #24-080-9026 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having enough information or evidence provided at this time, #24-080-9027 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having a signed consent, #24-080-9030 = *Deny & close complaint*, #25-080-9004 = Not accept and not open due to not having enough information (sent consents 3x, never received), #25-080-9005 = Not accept and not open complaint, due to not having issues not being germane and frivolous to the HRA.

Draft Report Acceptance

All the following case actions listed below were ratified at this meeting: #24-080-9002 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response, pending Deputy Director review*, #24-080-9003 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*, #24-080-9006 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*, #24-080-9007 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*, #24-080-9008 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*, #24-080-9009 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*, #24-080-9012 = *Accept & send draft report to facility for a response*.

Report Response Acceptance

All the following case actions listed below were ratified at this meeting: #23-080-9011 = Accept facility non-response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #24-080-9002= Accept facility non-response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #24-080-9003 =Accept facility public response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #23-080-9009 =Accept facility public response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #24-080-9007 =Accept facility public response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #24-080-9008 = Accept facility public response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint, #24-080-9009 = Accept the revision of the report, reissue and repost report to agency website, #24-080-9012 = Accept facility public response, publish report, upload to IGAC website & close complaint.

Agenda Updates/Changes:

DRM stated there are no changes or updates.

New Complaint:

#25-080-9011 – Per the complainant, while being hospitalized for 48 hours and forced to sign a voluntary admission form (which was not necessary) and did not receive any psychotropic medication. Complainant believes that the hospital is at fault for false admission and not properly informing of what was occurring. ***Potential Rights Violations: right to adequate and humane care and services in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual services plan and right to an appropriate voluntary admission process.*** Dr. Wade moved to table and send out a certified letter to complainant for signed consents, seconded by Colleen P., and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members

#25-080-9012 – According to the guardian, there was a discharge plan being developed with the hospital social worker and the guardian to get the patient into a rehab facility. Instead, the hospital discharged the patient back to the nursing home and did not inform the guardian until two days later. ***Potential Rights Violations: guardian inclusion in treatment planning was ignored and guardian notification was ignored.*** Dr. Wade moved to open, accept and pursue the complaint, seconded by Zoe W., and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members

Comments from the Public:

Introduction of visitor – Ben Diaz a possible new HRA member.

Unfinished Business

Closed Session

Pursuant to the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2), Dr. Wade moved to enter into close session at 4:14pm and seconded by Colleen P., the motion was carried via unanimous roll call of committee members. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss any case assignments, case progress, draft report discussion, report responses and case closures on the following cases: (24-080-9006, 24-080-9020, 25-080-9011 and 25-080-9012). The HRA returned to open session at 4:44pm, via motion by Dr. Wade and seconded by Zoe W., and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members.

Case Progress

#24-080-9020 – HRA Members who attended site visit on November 6, 2024, shared their insight and requested another visit to meet with absent staff.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

There were no draft reports to discuss at this meeting.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9006 – HRA Members vote to not accept response due to not adequately addressing the concerns and recommendation and provided additional recommendations and suggestions to review and responds back in thirty days.

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

Colleen P., moved to maintain confidentiality of previous Executive Session minutes (08/22/23 & 03/05/24), seconded by Zoe W., and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members.

Announced that HRA member, Colleen P., finally has completed their kitchen with home renovations, all members present offered congratulatory remarks and praise.

There was discussion on filling out the much-needed positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, which will be from November 2024 – July 2025 (reviewed in July 2025) and all projected positions were filled by members volunteering. See the listing below of the newly agreed officers:

Northwest HRA Officers 2024-2025

Dr. Erin Wade – Chair
Colleen Parks – Co-Chair
Kacie Jensen – Secretary

DRM discussed and provided updated mandatory training documents (that were previously emailed) and was able to collect three HRA members completed training confirmation forms.

Discussed need to continue recruiting efforts for new members(3 community members), to ensure that there will be a quorum, so the committee won't carry over ratifications for significant amount of time. DRM stated that the committee just recently lost an HRA member (resigned). HRA projected member got to speak with the members on their insight of being members, which was shared.

The HRA committee discussed the 2025 HRA calendar and updated meeting dates. Dr. Wade moved to accept the 2025 HRA Calendar with the updated dates, seconded by Colleen P., and motion carried unanimously by HRA members present.

Adjournment

Zoe W., moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:33pm, seconded by Colleen M., and motion carried via unanimous roll call of "ayes" by committee members, meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 , at the office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main St., Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole S. Weathersby
Nicole S. Weathersby
Disability Rights Manager