

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
CHICAGO REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Madden MHC, Room 1088: 1200 S. First Ave., Hines, Illinois

PRESENT: Gary Doherty and Joe Lupa.

ABSENT: Judi Bradley, Kamil Brady, Linda Cervenka, Nicole Erickson, Tiffany Johnson, and Michael Romain.

STAFF: Jeremy Polk (Disability Rights Manager - DRM), and Alejandra Meza (DRM).

GUEST: John Whitcomb (Northwestern Hospital Attorney)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Chicago Region was called to order at 5:42 p.m. by the Chicago Region Member Gary Doherty.

It was determined that a quorum was not present, however some business was conducted and will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum. The confidentiality statement was read by Jeremy Polk.

Minutes: No meeting minutes were approved as there was no quorum.

Communications:

NEW BUSINESS

New Cases:

25-030-9024 – Northwestern – The DRM spoke with a recipient of services. The recipient called indicating that he was being held in a facility without cause. The DRM traveled to the facility and spoke with the recipient and social worker. It was determined that the recipient was subject to an inpatient treatment petition and had a court date. DRM informed the LAS attorney and supervisor. The DRM also met with the recipient a second time as he agreed to take some medication but did not want injections. The recipient had no other complaints at the time. This case was closed as referred to LAS due to the pending treatment and medication petition. The motion was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9025 – New Case – A recipient was admitted on 1/30. The recipient reports she signed a 5-day a few days ago but a few days later was told it was not valid because she wasn't decisional at the time. The recipient was then told she would need to sign another one if she wanted to be discharged. The recipient states she received one emergency medication for no reason and without a restriction notice. She was not given a copy of her voluntary application or rights at admission. Her treatment planning has only involved discussion about medication compliance. She did not receive any written information for psychotropic medications. DRM reached out to quality manager to inquire about 5-day status and facility reports patient is supposed to discharge on 2/13 to family. This case was opened for investigation. The motion was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9026 – Ryze at the Ridge – A complainant from a nursing home reports he would like to transition out of the nursing home but realizes he needs a job and help with budgeting. DRM asked him if he had been evaluated for the Colbert Consent decree, but he did not know. He also reports that he was not being given the opportunity to refuse the bird flu vaccine. DRM reminded him of his right to refuse medication but also let him know that staff may continue to offer it. DRM spoke to his nursing home social worker who states that he was referred for the Colbert program on 12/19/24 and is on the waiting list. It has been taking up to 6 months for the initial evaluation to happen. She also confirmed that he does have the right to refuse vaccines but that they are not even offering a bird flu vaccine at this time. The last vaccine offered to him was the COVID booster which he declined. DRM followed up with resident to let him know he is on the waiting list for the Colbert evaluation and again confirmed that he does have the right to refuse vaccines. Resident continues to call DRM but does not bring up any new issues. This case was not accepted. The motion was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9027 – New Case – A complainant called another region indicating that they were being held in a psychiatric unit for 11 days and was not allowed to discharge despite asking daily. The recipient was not aware of her admission status and did not recall signing a voluntary application or receiving a petition/certificate upon transfer from another hospital. There had been no discharge planning done and no treatment planning other than talks about medication compliance. Additional complaints include unwarranted involuntary medication administration without a restriction notice, no written educational materials for psychotropic medication, no consent given for psychotropic medication, and no visitation being allowed on the unit. The motion to open was entered by Gary. The motioned was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9028 – New Case – Caller reports he was not seen by a psychiatrist within the first 72 hours of admission. Patient also states he did not receive any paperwork until his 5th day. He states he originally signed a 5 day but then was told the form was not valid because it had another patient's name on it. He was not given the opportunity to sign another 5 day. He also reported an incident of sexual harassment from his roommate which was reported to staff but ignored. Security was then called on him and the security guards pinned him down, gave him involuntary meds with no restriction notice, and brushed his arm against their genitals twice. DRM reported this info to risk

manager and filed IDPH report. Risk manager says they are investigating the incident. He was not given the information for his LAS attorney and did not have any contact with an attorney despite having a pending involuntary petition. Patient was eventually transferred to another mental health hospital after the involuntary treatment petition was granted. This case was tabled. Motion to table entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no motion to enter executive session as there was no quorum.

Case Assignments:

N/A

Draft reports for acceptance:

23-030-9009 – Northwestern – This case was approved without issue. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

23-030-9041 – Northwestern – This case was approved without issue. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

24-030-9023 – Northwestern – This case was approved without issue. The motion to accept and issue was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

Accept responses, close, and publish:

23-030-9034 – Madden – This case was closed this date. The facility provided a response to all recommendations in the case. The motion to close and publish was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

23-030-9043 – UCP Seguin – This case was closed this date. This was an informal case and the facility reported that the recipient was finally moved to the requested CILA home. The motion to close this case was entered by Joe. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

24-030-9030 – Ascension St. Mary’s – This case was approved without issue. The motion to close and publish this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

24-030-9032 – Ascension St. Mary’s – This case was approved without issue. The motion to close and publish this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

Other unfinished business, announcements, and comments:

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Joe and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Lupa for
Linda Cervenka – Secretary