

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
CHICAGO REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Madden MHC, Room 1088: 1200 S. First Ave., Hines, Illinois

PRESENT: Gary Doherty, and Nicole Erickson.

ABSENT: Kamil Brady, Judi Bradley, Linda Cervenka, Elizabeth Edelen, Tiffany Johnson, Joe Lupa, and Michael Romain

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

GUEST: N/A

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Chicago Region was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by the Chicago Region Member Gary Doherty.

It was determined that a quorum was not present. The confidentiality statement was read by Jeremy Polk.

Minutes: Meeting minutes were not approved for the Chicago HRA's previous meetings as a quorum of members were not present.

Communications: N/A.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

All ratifications were tabled as there was no quorum to vote on ratifying previous actions.

New Cases:

26-030-9009 – New Case – A recipient states that they were given forced medications without cause. There is no signed release, so the case was tabled at the previous meeting. DRM has not heard from the recipient and a motion to table one more meeting was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9013 – New Case – A patient says she went to another hospital on 9/17 and was transferred overnight to a psychiatric unit at a different hospital. She has refused to sign in as voluntary. The patient states she did not receive any documents stating that she had been petitioned for involuntary treatment. She states that she has not had a translator except when speaking to one of the therapists despite being a Spanish-speaker. She wants to be discharged but has not received any info on discharge. DRM intended to follow up with patient in person but could not make it to the hospital as the patient was discharged shortly thereafter. Attempts to reach patient have been unsuccessful. The motion to not accept this case was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9014 – New Case – A patient had questions regarding discharge. He was brought in on a writ and was just provided with the involuntary petition on 9/18 despite being admitted 9/11. He reports receiving involuntary medications for no reason. DRM spoke to social worker who says the patient is refusing all treatment and is a danger to himself and others, so they filed an involuntary commitment petition. Social worker then reported on 9/24 that hospital is filing an involuntary medication petition as well. Signed ROI received from patient. The motion to open this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9015 – New Case – A complainant reports self-admitting to the hospital to get psychotropic medications adjusted. She was transferred to a hospital which she had never been to before. Voluntary application was signed late at night, and she received copies the following day. Had concerns that she arrived on the unit after dinnertime and only received chips to eat despite not eating in the previous hospital either. They stated they had no other food options. She also reports that she was not given a dairy-free diet despite reporting allergy to nursing staff. Additionally, her medicated ointment has not been provided. Patient reports no clocks on the unit and the windows being blacked out so they cannot look outside. The motion to open this case as informal was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9016 – New Case – A recipient states that a Jail is not providing adequate and necessary medical care. The recipient also states that he was physically attacked by staff. DRM mailed a new release to the new facility the recipient is residing at. The motion to table this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Nicole. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9017 – New Case – A recipient was discharged to another nursing home on 9/23/25 without guardian notification, consent, or participation in treatment/discharge planning. The recipient did not want to leave the facility but stated he felt he had to due to them involving the police. The motion to open this case was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9018 – New Case – A recipient is requesting a copy of their personal record. The motion to open this case as informal was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

26-030-9019 – New Case – A recipient states that her 5-day request for discharge was not honored timely. It is also reported that the recipient was not given sufficient transportation upon discharge. The motion to open this case was entered by Gary. The motion was seconded by Nicole. 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:

24-030-9043 – Aperion Lakeshore – The report was accepted pending the director's review. Motion to issue the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9020 – Community 1st Hospital – This report had violations, and the present members had a brief discussion about the mental health code and the application to facilities without mental health units. Motion to issue the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

Accept responses, close, and publish:

24-030-9003 – Hartgrove – There were no violations present in this case, and it was closed and published without issue. Motion to close the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

24-030-9020 – Hartgrove – There were no violations present in this case, and it was closed and published without issue. Motion to close the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

24-030-9041 – Hartgrove – There were no violations present in this case, and it was closed and published without issue. Motion to close the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9002 – Ascension St. Mary's – The present HRA members reviewed the response from the facility. The response was accepted, and the case was closed and published. Motion to close the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

25-030-9014 – Hartgrove – There were no violations present in this case, and it was closed and published without issue. Motion to close the report was entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

Other unfinished business, announcements, and comments:

The available HRA member discussed remote meetings and HRA rule changes around meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn entered by Nicole. The motion was seconded by Gary and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Erickson for
Linda Cervenka – Secretary