

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Chili's Grill & Bar, 1240 East Main St., Carbondale, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

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

Members Absent: Tiffany Beisner & Gretchin Emrick

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: Kathy Melvin, Dr. Tibrewala, Sarah Patrick

Minutes: Open meeting minutes from September 2024 were reviewed. No changes were made. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the minutes, Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

Open meeting minutes from November 2024 were reviewed. No changes were made. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the minutes, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from September 2024 were reviewed. No changes were made. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the executive minutes, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from November 2024 were reviewed. No changes were made. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the executive minutes, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway shared the new IGAC brochure for guardianship rights and advised the board if they needed copies to give out to let her know. Kim Conway shared a brochure entitled "strapped down" that was sent to IGAC and discusses statistics and restraint chair usage in Illinois jails. Kim Conway also shared the names of the new administration at Choate Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Center. Kim Conway reviewed Open Meetings Act requirements for entering executive session and for voting on and recording the minutes.

Other New Business: The board received and reviewed one application for board membership from Kathy Melvin and one interest form and curriculum vitae from Sarah Patrick. Both were present at the meeting and spoke with the board about their work experience and why they would like to join the HRA board. Sarah advised the board that she would be retiring soon and would send in her application at a later date. After they left the meeting, the board discussed the application and experience of both candidates and had no concerns with either applicant joining the board. Since Kathy Melvin had already applied, hers was the only application to vote on at the meeting. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to appoint Kathy Melvin to the board as a community member, Rebecca Lewey seconded. Everyone agreed and the motion carried.

Ratifications: The following items were discussed at the November meeting when a quorum was not present. All board members present agreed to the following actions. Outside votes of agreement were taken from Rebecca Lewey and Tiffany Beisner following the November meeting. The items were ratified at the January meeting as follows:

New Complaints ratified:

25-110-9011 CILA Home - alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit solely for diabetes diagnosis. Kathy Rambeau moved to ratify case opening. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9012 CILA Home – alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit solely for diabetes diagnosis. Clarence Russell Moved to ratify case opening. Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9013 Community Hospital - alleges inappropriate care and treatment. Kathy Rambeau moved to ratify case opening. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Draft Reports ratified:

24-110-9018 Franklin County Jail – Clarence Russell moved to ratify approval of the draft report as stated. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9025 West Frankfort High School – Eric Price moved to ratify approval of the draft report as stated. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

Closures ratified:

24-110-9005 Camp Little Giant – Clarence Russell moved to ratify case closure and make the report and response part of the public record. Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9010 Lawrence Correctional - Rebecca Lewey made a motion to ratify case closure and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9015 Chester Mental Health - Clarence Russell moved to ratify case closure and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

New Complaints for January:

25-110-9014 State Operated Facility – alleges inappropriate denial of admission. An individual was sent to the facility on a detain and evaluate order and was returned to a CILA home a few hours later with no explanation as to why the individual was not admitted. It was discovered later that the initial order was for a mental health treatment facility and when a second order was entered for a developmental disabilities facility, the individual was admitted for treatment. Eric Price made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation. Kathy Rambeau seconded and it carried.

25-110-9015 State Operated Facility – alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment by not providing notification of treatment meetings in time for the guardian to attend. Also alleges inadequate treatment for not following the treatment plan properly. Clarence Russell moved to accept the complaint for investigation. Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

Unfinished Business:

Clarence Russell made a motion to enter executive session at 6:40 pm pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20) to discuss preliminary case activities. Section 3955/21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955) allows for closed session discussion to protect the confidentiality of eligible persons and Section 110/5 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110) further protects the confidentiality of persons receiving mental health and developmental disability services; the motion was seconded by Eric Price and carried as follows: Paul Jones yes, Kathy Rambeau yes, Rebecca Lewey yes. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss preliminary and confidential aspects of cases. The HRA returned to open session at 8:02 pm, having taken no action in closed session. Executive minutes were recorded. A summary of closed session includes: Case Opening for 25-110-9016, Case progress was reviewed for 24-110-9024, 24-110-9026, 25-110-9001, 25-110-9002, 25-110-9006, 25-110-9007, 25-110-9008, 25-110-9010, 25-110-9011, 25-110-9012 & 25-110-9013. Draft reports were considered for 24-110-9022. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9018 & 24-110-9025.

New Complaint:

25-110-9016 State Operated Facility – To allow for the discussion of specific details of this complaint while protecting confidentiality, the board discussed this new complaint in closed session. The allegation is inadequate treatment including meal plans. Upon returning to open session the following action was taken, Kathy Rambeau made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

Case Progress Reports:

24-110-9024 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction by not allowing the recipient grounds pass without the recipient asking. The recipient reportedly did not know it needed to be requested. The report is in progress.

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. Staff ratio information provided was shared with the board. Waiting on additional information requested to be received. 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 from another facility were received and need to be reviewed and then it is ready for report.

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 for one recipient was completed but information was not available for the second recipient, so a second site visit needs to be completed for that information. The case is still under investigation.

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. The site visit is scheduled for later this month. The case is still under investigation.

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 was completed. The case is ready for report.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Site visit was completed. Waiting on records to be received. The case is still under investigation.

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. Staff interview is scheduled for later this month. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9011 ResCare CILA – alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit a recipient solely for a diabetes diagnosis. The case was opened at the November meeting. It was later discovered that the CILA home involved in this complaint was a ResCare home in another HRA regional coverage area. The board agreed to close the case and refer it to that region. Upon returning to open session the following action was taken, Kathy Rambeau made a motion to close the case and make a referral to the East Central HRA region. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9012 CIL CILA Home - alleges discrimination based on disability due to CILA allegedly refusing to admit a recipient solely for a diabetes diagnosis. The site visit is scheduled for later this month. The case is still under investigation.

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. The site visit is scheduled for later this month. The case is still under investigation.

Draft Reports:

24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health – alleges inappropriate placement. The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Rebecca Lewey made a motion to approve the draft report as stated. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

Closures:

24-110-9018 Franklin County Jail – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Clarence Russell made a motion to close the case and make the findings part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

24-110-9025 West Frankfort High School – The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to close the case and make the findings part of the public record. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Clarence Russell moved to return to open session at 8:02 pm. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on March 20th in Anna.

Kathy Rambeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm., Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary