

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Pizza Villa, 169 East Vienna St., Anna, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was not present.

Members Present: Paul Jones, Kathy Melvin, Eric Price & Clarence Russell (5:25 pm)

Members Absent: Kathy Rambeau, Tiffany Beisner, Gretchin Emrick & Rebecca Lewey

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: None

Minutes: Since there was no quorum, minutes from March 2025 could not be voted on. The board did review the minutes and found one error to be corrected, Kathy Melvin's name was left off the list of attendees.

Communications: Kim Conway shared that Rebecca Lewey's term expires in June, so there are now 2 vacancies on the board for community members. One application was received from Michelle Davison and reviewed by the board. She would be a provider member and currently there are no vacancies for provider members. Her application will be kept on file. Legislation has passed that would allow for 8 long term and 2 short term stabilization homes, IDHS is accepting applications from providers who are interested in opening the homes. Kim Conway shared the outcome of the Progressive Housing vs IGAC case, and the report can now be published on the website.

Other New Business: None

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

25-110-9024 Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICFDD): alleges inappropriate restriction of rights stating that a recipient is not being allowed the right to choose placement when discharging from the ICFDD. All present agreed to accept the case for investigation. Outside votes to open were received from Kathy Rambeau and Rebecca Lewey.

Unfinished Business:

Since there was no quorum present, the following cases were discussed in open session while maintaining confidentiality: Case progress was reviewed for 25-110-9002, 25-110-9006, 25-110-9007, 25-110-9008, 25-110-9010, 25-110-9012, 25-110-9013, 25-110-9014, 25-110-9015, 25-110-9016, 25-110-9017, 25-110-9018, 25-110-9019, 25-110-9020, 25-110-9021, 25-110-9022 & 25-110-9023. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9022, 24-110-9024, 24-110-9026 & 25-110-9001.

Case Progress Reports:

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 was completed. The case is ready for report.

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. The investigation is completed and the case is ready for report.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – Alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Site visit was completed. Records requested were received and need to be reviewed. This case is under investigation.

25-110-9010 Chester Mental Health - alleges lack of guardian involvement. A recipient had a tooth extraction without guardian consent. The case is ready for report.

25-110-9012 CIL CILA Home - alleges discrimination based on disability due to the CILA allegedly refusing to admit a recipient solely for a diabetes diagnosis. The site visit was completed. The case is ready for report.

25-110-9013 Deaconess Illinois Union County 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. This case is ready for report.

25-110-9014 Choate Developmental Center – 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 disability's facility, the individual was admitted for treatment. The site visit needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9015 Chester Mental Health – 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. Chart was reviewed and a nurse was interviewed. Still need to interview more staff members. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9016 Chester Mental Health – alleges inadequate treatment including meal plans. The case is ready for report.

25-110-9017 Chester Mental Health – Alleges not being served in the least restrictive environment. Recipient has been on transfer list since April 2023, but is NGRI recipient with a thiem date in 2080. Interviews still needed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9018 Chester Mental Health – alleges inadequate treatment due to the therapist not meeting with the recipient weekly as required in the treatment plan. Interviews still needed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9019 Williamson County Jail – alleges a detainee is not receiving medications since being arrested. Case was opened pending receipt of release in March. The release has been received so site visit needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-2020 Gateway Treatment Facility – alleges lack of guardian communication. Allegedly, the facility refused to give guardian information while the recipient was at the facility. Site visit needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-2021 Choate Mental Health – alleges inadequate care due to lack of staff. Reportedly there is not enough nursing and social worker staff to provide quality care, a safe environment, provide the needed counseling, and allegedly mistakes in medication distribution have been made. Site visit needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9022 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction of rights. Allegedly a recipient's grounds pass was restricted after an alleged rape incident where recipient was victim. No reason was given as to why pass restriction occurred. Site visit needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9023 Choate Mental Health – alleges inadequate discharge process. Allegedly a recipient was discharged to a community setting without medication, prescriptions, or notification that the recipient was coming. Case was opened pending receipt of release of information in March. The release still has not been received, but the recipient is in another facility now, so the HRA will send a release there to attempt obtaining a signature.

Draft Reports: None

Closures:

24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health – alleges inappropriate placement. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings along with staff training records provided. Those present agreed to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Outside votes were obtained from Kathy Rambeau and Rebecca Lewey to close the case.

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 board reviewed the response to the report of findings. Those present agreed to table case closure to allow time for additional information to be received. Outside votes were obtained from Kathy Rambeau and Rebecca Lewey to table case closure.

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. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. Those present agreed to table case closure to allow time for additional information to be received. Outside votes were obtained from Kathy Rambeau and Rebecca Lewey to table case closure.

25-110-9001 Choate Developmental Center - alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment planning, specifically placement. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings along with the staff training records. Those present agreed to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Outside votes were obtained from Kathy Rambeau and Rebecca Lewey to close the case.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on July 17, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Lewey, Secretary