

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
May 8th, 2025

The regular stated meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 3:04 pm on Thursday, May 8th, 2025, at the State Office Building Conference Room B, 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

ROLL CALL

Present: Janet Manning, Sandra Dixon, Adam Casario, Allison Frees-Williams, LaVeda Weidner-Cravens and Paulette Brock.

Absent: Ingrid Wheeler, Dan McCarthy, and Mary Auth.

Staff: Lara Davis and Gene Seaman

Guests: None

Allison Frees-Williams stated that there was a quorum present.

Allison Frees-Williams read the confidentiality statement reminded everyone that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings to protect the privacy of those persons with disabilities on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

INTRODUCTIONS

None

COMMUNICATION:

The 2025 trainings are available on OneNet. Paper trainings will be available soon.

MINUTES

Th March 2025 HRA Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Paulette Brock motioned that the minutes be approved. LaVeda Weidner-Cravens seconded, and the motion carried.

The March 2025 HRA Board Executive Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Sandra Dixon motioned that the minutes be approved. LaVeda Weidner-Cravens seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

A. Ratifications:

1. Ratifications:

None

2. New Complaints:

25-060-9026 (School District) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the school district denied a recipient an ADA accommodation. Allegedly, the recipient asked to record a meeting she was to attend at the school and the request was denied however, the school offered to have a scribe attend meetings and take notes for the recipient. Allegedly, the recipient was denied the scribe when it came time to attend a meeting at the school district. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the case as it was handled informally. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

25-060-9027 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the is inappropriately restricting patients' rights by not allowing youth in care private communication via telephone. Allegedly, the facility has staff dial the phone for all youth patients wanting to make a call. The complaint alleges, the facility requires a signed release of information for patients to speak with someone via telephone even if the patient called the person themselves. Allegedly, youth in care are not allowed to speak with Advocacy agencies including IGAC without a signed consent form. LaVeda Weidner-Cravens made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9028 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the hospital did not explain the admission and discharge process to patients. Allegedly the individual was not provided a copy of her admission paperwork including patient bill of rights and when she requested the papers staff refused to provide it. The complaint alleges the hospital does not allow patients to speak with the hospitals patient advocate to file a complaint or grievance. Allegedly, patients are not allowed private and uninterrupted telephone communication as staff turned off the phone while the individual was speaking with IGAC. Additionally, the complaint alleges staff forced medication on the individual by giving the individual a shot of Ativan when the individual was having auditory sensitivity. The complaint alleges the individual was not provided a sign language interpreter when she was not able to verbally communicate during a medical situation. Furthermore, the complaint alleges the individual was not allowed to inspect or copy her medical records. Sandra Dixon made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Allison Frees-Williams. Motion carried.

25-060-9029 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint states the facility staff refuses to listen and work the patient. Allegedly, the psychiatrist did not listen to the individual's concerns and just prescribed medication that does not work for the individual. Additionally, it is alleged the individual's case manager refuses to work with the individual. The complaint alleges the individual provided written request for discharge and the case manager refused to accept the request. Allegedly, the facility refused to discharge the individual unless he agreed to take the medication the psychiatrist prescribed. The complaint alleges the facility only allows visitation one day a week. Allegedly, the individual was not allowed to see his mother as the facility limits visitation to Thursday only. Paulette Brock made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

25-060-9030 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges staff would hold down and give the individual a shot of Ativan and Haldol anytime the individual voiced concerns about his treatment at the facility. Allegedly, the individual has refused Ativan and Haldol due to the medication making him a zombie and hurting his head however, staff still

inject the individual with the medication. The complaint alleges the facility shut off the phone while the individual was on the phone. Allegedly, the facility will not give the individual his mail. Paulette Brock made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

25-060-9031 (School District) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the school district failed to provide an accurate notice of the date and time for a students Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting to the students' parents. Allegedly, on the day of the IEP meeting, the school changed the time of the meeting. The new meeting time did not work for the parents and the parents notified staff and requested the meeting be changed to a new date which staff agreed to. However, it is alleged staff still held the IEP meeting without the parents involvement or notifying the parents the meeting continued as originally scheduled. Adam Casario made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

25-060-9032 (Developmental Center) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual is supposed to be on a locked unit and his supervision level is same room with staff at all times. Allegedly, staff noticed the individual was missing around 9pm and was located at a gas station near the interstate around 10:45pm. Sandra Dixon made a motion to accept the complaint. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9033 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges staff coerced the individual into signing into the behavioral health unit voluntarily. Allegedly, the individual was admitted into the hospital involuntary and the night before the scheduled court date, staff told the individual the only way to be discharged is to agree to voluntary admission. The complaint alleges staff did not explain the voluntary admission process, discharge process or explain the individuals rights to her. Allegedly, staff guaranteed the individual would be released in 3 days. Adam Casario made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9034 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges staff failed to keep a patient free from abuse by another peer. Allegedly, the individual was beaten by another patient. The complaint alleges staff failed to provide medical treatment to the individual after the altercation. Allegedly, the individual had visible injuries including broken teeth, but staff did not have the individual evaluated or treated. Paulette Brock made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Allison Frees-Williams. Motion carried.

25-060-9035 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the individual was involuntary admitted to the facility from another hospital however, once at the facility staff had the individual sign papers including voluntary admission papers without the individual being aware he was agreeing to voluntary admission. Allegedly, the individual was not given his necessary HIV medication. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was properly seconded by Sandra Dixon. Motion carried.

25-060-9036 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint alleges the facility failed to explain the admission and discharge process to the individual. Allegedly, the psychiatrist decided upon the individual's admission that she would not be discharged for 8 days even though the individual was suitable for discharge. Sandra Dixon made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

25-060-9037 (Psychiatric Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint states the facility is failing to provide the necessary treatment. Allegedly, patients are not receiving individual or group therapy. Allegedly, patients are given medication and told to watch television all day. The complaint alleges the facility does not provide hand soap in bathrooms. Allegedly, the individual was not allowed the slippers that family dropped off at the facility for her. The complaint alleges the facility does not provide patients with the patient bill of rights or explain patient rights to patients. Allegedly, the facility does not allow patients to be discharged on the weekends. Paulette Brock made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9038 (Hospital) – Complaint Summary: The complaint states the hospital inappropriately admitted the individual into the behavioral health unit. Allegedly, the hospital had the guardian give consent for the individual to be admitted into the behavioral health unit without cause. Allegedly, the guardian was told the individual would only be admitted for 72 hours but was not discharged for 10 days. The complaint alleges the hospital kept the individual admitted to the behavioral health unit when the individual was suitable for discharge. Adam Casario made a motion table case opening and wait for a release. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Allison Frees-Williams made a motion to enter executive session at 3:34pm pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) and Section 120/2 (C) (10) to discuss preliminary case activities of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20). 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 Adam Casario and carried as follows: Paulette Brock – Yes; Janet Manning – Yes; LaVeda Weidner-Cravens – Yes; Sandra Dixon – Yes. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss preliminary and confidential aspects of cases. The HRA returned to open session at 4:06pm having taken no action in closed session. Executive minutes were recorded. A summary of closed session includes case acceptance details for Case #25-060-9027, #25-060-9028, #25-060-9030, and #25-060-9032; to discuss a draft report for Case #24-060-9007, #25-060-9019, #25-060-9020, #25-060-9023, #25-060-9024, and #25-060-9025; to discuss investigation information for Case #25-060-9014, #25-060-9017, and #25-060-9018; and to review and discuss provider responses to Case #24-060-9030, #25-060-9002, #25-060-9012, #25-060-9015, #25-060-9016, and #25-060-9022.

A. Draft Report:

25-060-9007 – Kankakee County Jail -Sandra Dixon motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

25-060-9019-ResCare- Allison Frees-Williams motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

25-060-9020 – Shaprio Center - LaVeda Weidner-Cravens motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

25-060-9023 – Shaprio Center -Sandra Dixon motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

25-060-9024 – Shaprio Center -Janet Manning motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Motion carried.

25-060-9025 – Pavilion -Sandra Dixon motioned to approve the draft report. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

B. Case Closures:

25-060-9030 – Champaign Unit #4 School District – Adam Casario motioned to table case closure and send a letter requesting the facility follow the recommendation. The motion was properly seconded by Allison Frees-Williams. Motion carried.

25-060-9002 – Champaign Unit #4 School District – LaVeda Weidner-Cravens motioned to table case closure and send a letter requesting the facility follow the recommendation. The motion was properly seconded by Allison Frees-Williams. Motion carried.

25-060-9012 – Shapiro– Paulette Brock motioned to table to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by LaVeda Weidner-Cravens. Motion carried.

25-060-9015 – Developmental Foundation Inc– Sandra Dixon motioned to table to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

25-060-9016 – Fox Center– Allison Frees-Williams motioned to table to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Paulette Brock. Motion carried.

25-060-9022 – Accolade Healthcare– Sandra Dixon motioned to table to close the case and make the report apart of the public record. The motion was properly seconded by Adam Casario. Motion carried.

C. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

Allison Frees-Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly second by Janet Manning. Motion carried.

Adam Casario adjourned the meeting at 4:12pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Secretary