

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Shawnee Community College Extension, 1150 East Vienna St., Anna, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Vice-Chairperson, Kathy Rambeau, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Clarence Russell, Kathy Rambeau, Tiffany Beisner, Gretchin Emrick, Rebecca Lewey, Kathy Melvin & Eric Price

Members Absent: Paul Jones

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: Abbie Miller

Minutes: Open meeting minutes from January 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the minutes, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from January 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Eric Price made a motion to approve the executive minutes, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from July 2024 were reviewed for need of continued confidentiality. Tiffany Beisner made a motion to keep them confidential. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from September 2024 were reviewed for need of continued confidentiality. Clarence Russell made a motion to keep them confidential. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from July 2024 were reviewed for need of continued confidentiality. Eric Price made a motion to keep them confidential. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway shared that there is one board vacancy for a community member. She also shared that Gretchin Emrick is now a citizen member and Kathy Melvin is holding the mental health provider member spot. Kim clarified voting on meeting minutes and closed session. The five 2025 trainings are posted on the OneNet site for members to complete and there will soon be paper copies for anyone having trouble accessing the online trainings.

Other New Business: None

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

25-110-9017 State Operated Facility – 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. January Treatment plan said he has not received any behavior reports, restraints or seclusions and indicated recipient was on the

transfer list but nothing stating what the delay was, just that thiem date is a barrier. Gretchin Emrick moved to accept the case for investigation, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9018 State Operated Facility – alleges inadequate treatment due to the therapist not meeting with the recipient weekly as required in the treatment plan. Initial chart review in January showed 1 visit per month in late 2024. Gretchin Emrick moved to accept the complaint for investigation, Rebecca Lewey seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9019 Jail – alleges a detainee is not receiving medications since being arrested. Allegedly some medications came from home in a new unopened mail package, but the jail refused to give them to detainee stating they were outdated. A new medication list was faxed to the jail from the Veterans Administration but still medication was not ordered. It was also alleged that the detainee was not allowed to make a phone call for 5 days after detention. Kathy Rambeau moved to accept the complaint for investigation pending receipt of a release of information, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

25-110-2020 Community Treatment Facility – alleges the facility refused to give guardian information until the day recipient was released even though an Emergency Medical Consent form was sent to them. Recipient was at the facility approximately a month. When the guardian asked to speak to the Supervisor/Director, the guardian was told they could only speak with case workers. After a second time of requesting the Director, guardian receive a voicemail. The Guardian asked the case worker to call when they decided where recipient was going to be discharged to but wasn't notified until the next day after placement. Eric Price moved to accept the complaint for investigation, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

25-110-2021 State Operated Facility – 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. Kathy Rambeau moved to accept the complaint for investigation, Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9022 State Operated Facility – 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. Clarence Russell moved to accept the complaint for investigation, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9023 State Operated Facility – alleges inadequate discharge process. Allegedly a recipient was discharged to a community setting without medication, prescriptions, or notification that the recipient was coming. Kathy Rambeau moved to accept the complaint for investigation pending receipt of release of information. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

Unfinished Business:

Clarence Russell made a motion to enter executive session at 6:19 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 Gretchin Emrick and carried as follows: Kathy Rambeau yes, Rebecca Lewey yes, Tiffany Beisner yes, Kathy Melvin yes, Eric Price yes. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss preliminary and confidential aspects of cases. Tiffany Beisner moved to return to open session at 8:23 pm. It was seconded by Clarence Russell and carried. No action was taken in closed session. Executive

minutes were recorded. A summary of closed session includes: 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. Draft reports were considered for 24-110-9024, 24-110-9026 & 25-110-9001. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9022.

Case Progress Reports:

To accommodate guest, Abbie Miller, Deaconess Illinois cases were moved to the top of the agenda for closed session discussion.

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. Abbie Miller attended the meeting to discuss this case to see if anything else was needed. She informed the board that the correct name for the business is Deaconess Illinois Professional Park Clinic. After returning to open session. Tiffany Beisner made a motion to amend the name, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. 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. Abbie Miller was present for the discussion of this case. The site visit was completed, and the hospital had addressed the allegations internally. The board discussed the changes that had been made and commended the hospital on the improvements. This case is ready for report. Abbie Miller left after the discussion of this case at 6:35 pm.

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.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – Kathy Melvin left the meeting at 7:14 pm due to a conflict of interest. She returned at 7:38 pm when the discussion had ended. Alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Site visit was completed. Records requested were received and need to be reviewed. Another issue was presented to the HRA alleging that when the recipient was transferred to the department of corrections, his medical records were not shared by the jail which caused a decline in the recipient's diabetes and related issues. Additional releases were received, and that issue still needs to be investigated. 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 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. Interview with the nurse was completed. The case is ready for report.

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 was completed. The 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 a couple more staff members. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9016 Chester Mental Health – alleges inadequate treatment including meal plans. Meal plans were obtained from other state operated facilities. The board discussed those findings and noted they were all similar. The case is ready for report.

Draft Reports:

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 draft report and had no changes or suggestions. Tiffany Beisner moved to approve the draft report as stated. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

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 draft report and had no changes or suggestions. Eric Price moved to approve the draft report as stated. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

25-110-9001 Choate Developmental Center - alleges lack of guardian involvement in treatment planning, specifically placement. The board reviewed the draft report and had no changes or suggestions. Clarence Russell moved to approve the draft report as stated. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

Closures:

24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health – alleges inappropriate placement. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings. Gretchin Emrick moved to table case closure to allow time for proof of staff retraining to be received. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2025.

Clarence Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm., Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lewey, Secretary