

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 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 5:10 p.m. Chairperson, Paul Jones, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: Jerald Richards and Fred Chinn, Crawford County Jail; Melissa Neitcel, Liberty Village; Eric Chilman, Mulberry Manor

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

Executive meeting minutes from March 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the executive minutes, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Open meeting minutes from May 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the minutes, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

There was no quorum for May 2025 meeting, therefore, no executive minutes.

Executive meeting minutes from January 2025 were reviewed for need of continued confidentiality. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the executive minutes, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Executive meeting minutes from March 2025 were reviewed for need of continued confidentiality. Kathy Melvin made a motion to keep them confidential. Eric Price seconded, and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway shared that there are 2 vacancies on the board for citizen members. The Department of Mental Health and the Department of Substance Use and Prevention Recovery have merged into a new agency under the Department of Human Services called Illinois Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR). Guardianship and Advocacy Commission's Director, Dr. Mary Milano, has retired. The new agency Director is Tracey Fleming. Finally, Kathy Rambeau shared with the board that she has been asked to write an article for a Behavior Analyst Journal about Advocacy and the HRA.

Ratifications:

1. **25-110-9024 ICFDD** – Eric Price made a motion to ratify case opening. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.
2. **25-110-9025 Assisted Living** – Clarence Russell made a motion to ratify case opening. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried.
3. **24-110-9022 Choate Mental Health** – Kathy Melvin made a motion to ratify case closure. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.
4. **24-110-9024 Choate Developmental Center** – Kathy Rambeau made a motion to ratify tabling case closure. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried.
5. **24-110-9026 Choate Developmental Center** – Clarence Russell made a motion to ratify tabling case closure. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.
6. **25-110-9001 Choate Developmental Center** – Tiffany Beisner made a motion to ratify case closure. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

New Complaints:

1. **26-110-9001 Healthcare agency** – alleges inadequate medical care regarding diabetic treatment because medication and treatment was not received in a timely fashion. Allegedly due to lack of treatment the recipient's vision and neuropathy became worse. Have a signed release.
2. **26-110-9002 State Operated Facility** – alleges inadequate/inhumane care and treatment due to an order for double portions at meals not being followed. Have a signed release.

Other New Business: Election of Fiscal Year 2026 Officers: Clarence Russell made a motion for Paul Jones to hold the office of Chairperson, Kathy Rambeau to hold the office of Vice Chairperson and Eric Price to hold the office of secretary. Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Unfinished Business:

Clarence Russell made a motion to enter executive session at 5:38 pm pursuant to Section 120/2 (c)(4) and Section 120/2 (c)(10) pertaining to special education 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 Tiffany Beisner and carried as follows: Gretchin Emrick, yes; Eric Price, yes; Paul Jones, yes; Kathy Rambeau, yes and Kathy Melvin, yes. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss preliminary and confidential aspects of cases.

The following cases were discussed in closed session: Case progress was reviewed for 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 & 25-110-9024. Draft reports were considered for 25-110-9002, 25-110-9006 & 25-110-9007. Case closures were considered for 24-110-9024 & 24-110-9026.

Case Progress Reports: To accommodate guests, cases 25-110-9008, 25-110-9025 & 25-110-9024 were moved to the top of the agenda for closed session.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – Kathy Melvin left the meeting at 5:38 pm due to a conflict of interest and returned at 6:04 once discussion had concluded. Fred Chinn and Jerald Richards were present for discussion and left the meeting at 6:03 pm. Alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. Additional information that was requested was received and discussed. One more interview needs to be completed. This case is under investigation.

25-110-9025 Liberty Village – Melissa Neitcel joined the closed session at 6:04 pm and left at 6:19 once discussion had concluded. Kim Conway left the meeting due to a conflict of interest and returned at 6:20 when discussion had concluded. The Disability Rights Manager assigned to this case will be scheduling the site investigation. Melissa informed the board that this is an independent living facility that provides 2 meals per day and light housekeeping.

25-110-9024 Mulberry Manor – Eric Chilman joined the closed session at 6:20 pm and left at 6:40 pm once discussion had concluded. Tiffany Beisner left the meeting due to a conflict of interest and returned at 7:00 pm once discussion had concluded. Alleges inappropriate restriction of rights stating that a recipient is not being allowed the right to choose placement when discharging from the facility. The site investigation will be scheduled soon. The board shared the specifics of the allegation and what information it would need available during the site visit. Mr. Chilman shared his contact information to schedule the site visit with.

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 was completed, and further information is needed. 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 several staff were interviewed. The case is ready for report.

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 was found NGRI in court with a thiem date in 2080. Site visit completed and some interviews were done, additional 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 were completed with staff. The case is ready for report.

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

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 was completed. An additional interview needs to be completed. 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 investigation was completed. Several staff have been interviewed, but additional interviews are needed. 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 investigation was completed but additional interviews are needed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9023 Choate Mental Health – alleges inadequate discharge process. Case was opened pending receipt of release of information. The release still has not been received, because the recipient has been moved several times to different facilities. A release is being taken to the recipient by a HRA staff person in that region. Upon returning to open session Kathy Rambeau made a motion to continue tabling the case to allow time for a release to be received, Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

Draft 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. Gretchin Emrick left the meeting at 8:08 pm due to a conflict of interest and returned at 8:15 pm when discussion had ended. The draft report was reviewed, and no changes were made. Kathy Rambeau moved to approve the draft report as stated, Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Gretchin Emrick abstained from voting.

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 draft report was reviewed, and no changes were made. Kathy Rambeau moved to approve the draft report as stated. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

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. The draft report was reviewed, and no changes were made. Clarence Russell moved to approve the draft report as stated. Gretchin Emrick seconded, and it carried.

Closures:

24-110-9024 Choate Developmental Center – alleges inappropriate restriction by not allowing the recipient a grounds pass without the recipient asking. The additional response was reviewed, and the board had no additional concerns. Kathy Rambeau moved to close the case and make the report public, 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 additional response to the report of findings and had no further concerns. Gretchin Emrick Moved to close the case and make the report public, Tiffany Beisner seconded, and it carried.

Kathy Rambeau made a motion to return to open session at 8:24 pm, Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried.

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2025.

Kathy Rambeau moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Eric Price, and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Price, Secretary