

Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Pagliai's Pizza, 509 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL. The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. Vice-Chairperson, Kathy Rambeau, read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was not present.

Members Present: Kathy Melvin, Clarence Russell, Kathy Rambeau & Gretchin Emrick

Members Absent: Eric Price, Paul Jones & Tiffany Beisner

Staff Present: Kim Conway & Gene Seaman

Guests: Fred Chinn & Raymond Kingery

Case Progress Report: To accommodate guests, case 25-110-9008 was moved to the top of the agenda.

25-110-9008 Crawford County Jail – Fred Chinn and Raymond Kingery were present for discussion and left the meeting at 5:35 pm. Alleges inadequate medical treatment for diabetes related issues. One more interview needs to be completed. It was explained that there are continuing issues with medication transfer forms from receiving facilities when the jail takes an individual to prisons for custody transfer. This case is under investigation.

Minutes: Open meeting minutes from July 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Minutes could not be approved since there was no quorum.

Executive meeting minutes from July 2025 were reviewed. No changes were made. Executive Minutes could not be approved since there was no quorum.

Communications: Kim Conway shared the HRA statistics for fiscal year 2025. The Egyptian region handled 36 cases and benefitted 2,901 persons with disabilities utilizing volunteers 216 hours. The board discussed the merger of the Department of Mental Health with the Substance Use, Prevention and Recovery Department which formed the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery. The merger should not affect policies reviewed by the HRA but the agency agreed to share any changes made with the HRA. Kim Conway shared with the board how many of the patients transferred from Choate Developmental Center have discharged to the community and how many have been transferred to other state facilities. The HRA discussed the upcoming rule changes affecting the board meeting quorum requirements, the HRA's authority to hold hearings and upcoming legislative initiatives. Kim also polled the board members on their thoughts regarding remote participation in meetings by members and the public and asked if they would be interested in attending an annual training.

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

26-110-9003 State Operated Facility – alleges inadequate treatment due to the recipient not seeing a therapist as per the treatment plan and not being served in the least restrictive environment. Initial chart review shows recipient is still having maladaptive behaviors resulting in restraints and loss of privileges. Chart documentation also shows therapist documenting twice a month as per policy, when HRA inquired with therapist she stated she is meeting with the recipient weekly but documenting bi-monthly as per policy. Awaiting release. Clarence moved to accept the new complaint for investigation pending receipt of a release of information. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

26-110-9004 State Operated Facility – alleges inadequate treatment planning and lack of guardian involvement. The recipient was transferred from jail to the facility without guardian notification. There has been no guardian involvement in treatment meetings. The guardian is only contacted for phone calls for consents. Recently the guardian was notified that the recipient's thien date was up and he needed to be transferred, but the guardian was not notified ahead of time so he could be involved in the discharge/transfer planning. The recipient was transferred to a civil bed for now, but the guardian would like to explore community placement. Awaiting release. Kathy Melvin made a motion to accept the new complaint for investigation pending receipt of release of information. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

26-110-9005 Community Mental Health Agency – Alleges inadequate treatment planning. 16-year-old recipient with mental health diagnosis is having maladaptive behavioral issues to the point of crisis and injury to family resulting in legal charges. The child had a short stay in a facility in the northern region but was discharged prior to stabilization (complaint passed on to DRM in that area). After that discharge, this agency had trouble finding placement and allegedly told the family they must take the child back home and mom and siblings need to move out. Upon recommendation from law enforcement, the parents "locked out" the child who spent the weekend at the courthouse with crisis workers until being transferred to a shelter in central Illinois. Department of Children and Family Services is involved, but told this agency it was their job to place the child since mental health treatment is needed. Awaiting releases. Clarence Russell moved to accept the complaint for investigation pending receipt of releases of information, Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

Unfinished Business:

The following cases were discussed in open session while protecting confidentiality since there was no quorum to vote to enter executive session. Case progress was reviewed for 25-110-9008, 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, 25-110-9024, 26-110-9001 & 26-110-9002. Draft reports were considered for 25-110-9010, 25-110-9012, 25-110-9013, 25-110-9014. Case closures were considered for 25-110-9002, 25-110-9006 & 25-110-9007

Case Progress Reports:

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. Interviews were completed. The case is ready for report.

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 site investigation was completed. Waiting for records that were requested to be received. 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 was completed as well as an additional interview. The case is ready for report.

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. The case is ready for report.

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. Additional interviews were completed. The case is ready for report.

25-110-9023 Choate Mental Health – alleges inadequate discharge process. Case was opened pending receipt of release of information. The release was received. The site visit was completed. Additional site visits need to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9024 Mulberry Manor – 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 was completed. Additional interviews need to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

25-110-9025 Liberty Village – Alleges inadequate care. The site visit has been scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

26-110-9001 Wexford Health Sources – Alleges inadequate medical care regarding diabetic treatment because medication and treatment was not received in a timely fashion. The HRA is having difficulty scheduling this site visit since Wexford is no longer the contracted provider. The case is still under investigation.

26-110-9002 Chester Mental Health – Alleges inadequate and inhumane care due to a physician's order for double portions at meals not being followed. The site visit was completed. The case is ready for report.

Draft Reports:

25-110-9010 Chester Mental Health - alleges lack of guardian involvement. A recipient had a tooth extraction without guardian consent. The draft report was reviewed. Kathy Melvin made a motion to approve the draft report as stated. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

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 draft report was reviewed. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the draft report as stated. Clarence Russell seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

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. The draft report was reviewed. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to approve the draft report as stated. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

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. The following day the individual was admitted for treatment. The draft report was reviewed. Clarence Russell made a motion to approve the draft report as stated. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

Closures:

25-110-9002 Choate Mental Health – Alleges a recipient was inappropriately placed. The board reviewed the response to the report of findings and had no other concerns. Kathy Rambeau moved to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

25-110-9006 Gastroenterology Care of Southern Illinois – Alleges discrimination based on disability. No response was required and none was provided. Clarence Russell made a motion to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Rambeau seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

25-110-9007 Deaconess Illinois Family Practice Clinic– alleges inadequate care. No response was required and none was provided. Kathy Rambeau made a motion to close the case and make the report part of the public record. Kathy Melvin seconded, and it carried. Outside votes were obtained from Paul Jones and Tiffany Beisner.

Other New Business: None

Announcements from the Chair: The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2025.

Clarence Russell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathy Melvin, and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Price, Secretary