
Human Rights Authority, North Suburban Region Board Meeting
Tuesday October 7, 2025 5pm
IGAC 9511 Harrison Street Des Plaines, Illinois 6001 - LGI Room

Minutes

Members Present at start of the meeting:, Jayme Crooks, Mark Johnson, Pamela Morris, Anam Ahmed

Members Present by end of meeting: Teri Bates,

Members Absent: Adell Crump, Justin Houcek

Guests Present: None

Staff: Alejandra Meza (HRA), Mariah Balaban (HRA)

Call to order Open Session:

Chairperson Johnson motioned to start the meeting, Member Morris seconded, and the meeting started at 5:05. At this time the HRA did not have a quorum. DRM Balaban read the confidentiality statement.

New Business

Chairperson Johnson motioned to open an investigation into case 26-100-9004 (Endeavor Health Linden Oaks Hospital). Member Morris seconded and the motion carried. Member Crooks motioned to open an investigation into case 26-100-9005 (Chicago Behavioral Hospital). Member Bates seconded and the motion carried.

New Action Items

The board discussed the draft reports for cases 23-100-9016 and 24-100-9025 (both Advocate Lutheran General Hospital). Because this discussion occurred in open session only the findings and recommendations were discussed. At 5:40 Member Bates arrived at the meeting and a quorum was reached. Member Morris motioned to accept the draft report for case 23-100-9016 (Advocate Lutheran General Hospital). Chairperson Johnson seconded and the motion carried. Member Crooks motioned to accept the draft report for case 24-100-9025 (Advocate Lutheran General Hospital). Member Morris seconded and the motion carried.

The board discussed the provider response to 24-100-9021 (Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital). Although the provider followed the HRA's recommendations which included policy updates and retraining, they disparaged DRM Meza's investigative style and her conclusions. The HRA board and DRM Balaban strongly disagreed with this critique, specifically, the statement that DRM Meza interpreted 405 ILCS 5/2-107(a) too "*narrowly*" by suggesting that a risk of serious and imminent harm must be "*exclusively physical*". The Code is clear that that "*if [psychotropic medications are] refused, they shall not be given unless such services are necessary to prevent the recipient from causing serious and imminent **physical harm** . . .*" All of the North Suburban HRA's investigations of alleged violations of 405 ILCS 5/2-107(a) interpret this statute as it is written: that verbal threats do not rise to the standard set by the Code for emergency medication. In her role as an HRA investigator, DRM Meza is the authority on human rights under 405 ILCS 5/2 in the North Suburban region. In order to perform this job she must naturally "*substitute her own judgement*" for the provider's (as the provider charged) when determining if patients' rights were violated. The board hotly debated not accepting the provider response based on the antagonistic tone of their letter, however ultimately decided that since the provider accepted the recommendations of the investigation, it would be better to move on and close the case. Member Crooks

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motioned to accept the response, close the case, and publish the report (24-100-9021). Chairperson Johnson seconded and the motion carried.

Other Business and Adjournment:

Member Morris motioned to approve the open session minutes from the August 12, 2025 board meeting, Chairperson Johnson seconded, and the motion was approved.

Next Meeting Date: *December 16, 2025, 5pm* Location: *TBD*

Chairperson Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Member Morris seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.