

**HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
NORTHWEST REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103**

PRESENT: Kacie Jensen, Colleen Magee and Zoe Wedel

ABSENT: Colleen Parks (**Co-Chair**) and Dr. Erin Wade (**Chair**)

STAFF: Nicole S. Weathersby (**DRM**)

GUESTS: John W. Whitcomb - Monahan Law Group, LLC

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Northwest Region was called to order at 4:16 pm by Nicole S. Weathersby, the NW Disability Rights Manager, due to the absence of the Chair and Co-Chair. Introductions and greetings were completed by members and staff. It was determined that a quorum was not present, but appropriate business could be conducted. Nicole S. Weathersby, the NW Disability Rights Manager, read the confidentiality statement. It was discussed and all parties were reminded that the proceedings are confidential. All motions were carried out by proxy vote via follow-up telephone calls to absent members (Collen P. and Dr. Wade) who will provide the necessary numbers to suffice a majority of HRA members in agreement for the motions presented. DRM was able to complete follow-up calls with the absent members, which sufficed meeting the voting majority.

Minutes

Executive and regular meeting minutes from November 19, 2024, were tabled and will be approved at the next HRA meeting with a quorum.

New Business

Ratifications

There were no ratifications presented at this monthly meeting to address.

Agenda Updates/Changes:

There were no updates or changes for the agenda.

New Complaint:

#25-080-9013: According to the complainant in May 2024, at a local hospital, they were tackled by security officer and was told not to return and if so, they will be arrested for trespassing. The complainant stated they were not being treated fairly and raised concerns regarding the care and services they were receiving and, in the moment, threw a chair in frustration while in the emergency department. **Potential Rights Violations:**

Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Free from abuse and neglect. Zoe W., moved to send a final certified letter to complainant, seconded by Colleen M., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9014: According to the complainant, there are three different complaints that interested in pursuing : the hospital failure to give 5-day discharge form, receiving forced medication and a forced involuntary admission. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to complete a 5-day discharge request was not offered. Involuntary admit not based on consent and/or capacity, but threat. Right to refuse services and treatment.* Kacie J., moved to accept, open and pursue complaint seconded by Zoe W., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Comments from the Public:

Introduction of visitor – John W. Whitcomb - Monahan Law Group, LLC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Closed Session

No quorum was present to enter closed session pursuant to Section 120/2(a) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2). The meeting stayed in open session, discussing draft reports, case progress, case closures and other matters while maintaining and protecting the confidentiality of recipients and complainants.

Case Progress

Case #24-080-9019 – Site Visit was discussed, and Legal Counsel was present.

Case #24-080-9020 – Site Visit was discussed, HRA committee asked DRM to follow-up with Supervisor for advice, direction and will bring back to the committee for a decision, it would be more beneficial to acknowledge in the completed report of the staff member's refusal to participate. After follow-up all HRA committee members agreed to acknowledging the report.

Case #25-080-9002 - Kacie J., moved to accept, open and pursue complaint seconded by Zoe W., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Case #25-080-9006 - Kacie J., moved to deny and not accept complaint, due to not receiving signed consents, seconded by Colleen M., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Case #25-080-9007 - Zoe W., moved to accept, open and pursue complaint seconded by Colleen M., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Case #25-080-9009 - Kacie J., moved to deny and not accept complaint, due to not receiving signed consents, seconded by Zoe W., which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

There were no draft reports to discuss at this meeting.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9006 – HRA Members vote to not accept response due to not adequately addressing the concerns and recommendation and provided additional recommendations and suggestions to review and respond back in thirty days.

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

HRA member, Kacie J, shared that she and her husband are expecting a Baby Boy on July 1, 2025, all members present offered congratulatory remarks and cheers.

Adjournment

Colleen M. moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:28pm, seconded by Kacie J. and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members present in the room, meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2025, at the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main Street, Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kacie Jensen
NW HRA Secretary