
**HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
NORTHWEST REGION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103**

PRESENT: Kacie Jensen, Colleen Magee, Zoe Wedel and Dr. Erin Wade (**Chair**)
ABSENT: Colleen Parks (**Co-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 4:12pm by HRA Chairperson Dr. Wade. 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.) who will provide the necessary number 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, and January 7, 2025, were tabled until the next meeting in the presence of a quorum via motion entered by Member Magee, seconded by Member Jensen, carried via telephone proxy vote.

New Business

Ratifications

All ratifications were tabled until the next meeting in the presence of a quorum via motion entered by Member Jensen, seconded by Member Wedel, carried via telephone proxy vote.

Agenda Updates/Changes:

There were no updates or changes for the agenda.

New Complaint:

#25-080-9015: According to the complainant, was not allowed to change and or request a new provider and was not allowed to refuse treatment or medication (if when prescribed medication was having a negative effect and voiced that). **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored.* Member Jensen moved to deny (no consent) and close, seconded by Member Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9016: According to the complainant, was administered “emergency” medication when was not at risk of harm to himself or others and was not allowed to refuse treatment or medication. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored.* Member Jensen moved to deny (no consent) and close, seconded by Member Wedel, which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9017: According to the complainant, was administered “emergency” medication when was not at risk of harm to himself or others. Also, complained that blood was drawn without consent, after initially declining to have blood drawn (in part for religious reasons) and after he had discussed a blood draw with a hospital chaplain. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored.* Member Jensen moved to accept and open complaint, seconded by Member Wedel, which was carried via telephone proxy. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9018: According to the complainant, unneeded “emergency” medication was administered, the admission process was inappropriate and was not allowed to refuse treatment or medication. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored. Right to appropriate voluntary admission.* Member Jensen moved to table and send a certified consent letter, seconded by Member Wedel, which was carried via telephone proxy. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9019: According to the complainant, while waiting in the ED waiting room, spoke with nurse and got permission to go to the hospital’s cafeteria. After, receiving food, was asked to pay for meal and explained being admitted as a patient (had an id bracelet) and giving permission to come to the cafeteria (sat down to eat). Security was called and patient stated they were unlawfully restrained, until to law enforcement arrived and then was arrested. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to an adequate and humane care in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual plan was denied. Unlawful restraint.* Member Jensen moved to table pending receipt of consent accept, seconded by Member Magee, 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 into closed session pursuant to Section 120/2(a) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2). The meeting remained in open session and there was discussion around draft reports, case progress, case closures and other matters while maintaining and protecting the confidentiality of recipients and complainants.

Case Progress

Case #25-080-9008 –The facility twice denied records request, due to not having the complainant admitted during submitted dates. Member Wedel moved to deny and close complaint, seconded by Member Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy vote of excused members. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Case #25-080-9011– Member Jensen moved to deny and close complaint after not receiving signed consent after three attempts, seconded by Member Wedel, which was carried via telephone proxy vote of excused members. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Case #25-080-9013 – Member Wedel moved to deny and close complaint after not receiving signed consent after three attempts, seconded by Member Jensen, which was carried via telephone proxy vote of excused members. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

#24-080-9019-There was discussion regarding the participation level and preparation of personnel and staff for site visits. Member Jensen moved to send the unsubstantiated report to the facility for a response, seconded by Member Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The report acceptance will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9006 – There was discussion on the report response and Member Jensen voted to table the acceptance of the response and initiate a conversation with the facility for concern follow-up. The motion was seconded by Member Magee and was carried by telephone proxy. The facility was invited to the next HRA meeting.

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

There was discussion on the discrepancy between the IGAC Act pertaining to responses and the HRA voted to move forward with option one to present to HRA administration for consideration.

Also, the committee changed the May 2025 HRA meeting date to May 20th instead of May 13th, due to recent rescheduling of the March 2025 meeting.

Member Wedel shared experiencing some damage to personal property but reported no loss. All members present voiced concern and gratitude that Member Wedel was well.

Adjournment

Member Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:29pm, seconded by Member Wedel and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members present in the room, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kacie Jensen
NW HRA Secretary

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main Street., Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.