
Human Rights Authority, Northwest Region Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103

PRESENT: Carm Herman, Colleen Magee, Dr. Erin Wade (**Chair**) and Zoe Wedel

ABSENT: Kacie Jensen and Colleen Parks (**Co-Chair**)

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

GUESTS: N/A

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Northwest(NW) Region was called to order at 4:11pm 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, and all parties were reminded that all the proceedings are confidential. Dr. Wade, NW HRA Chair, read the confidentiality statement. All motions will be carried out by proxy vote via follow-up telephone calls to absent members (Jensen & Parks) 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 in meeting the voting majority.

Minutes

Executive and regular meeting minutes from November 19, 2024, January 7, 2025, and March 25, 2025, were tabled until the next meeting in the presence of a quorum via motion entered by Member Wedel, seconded by Member Magee, 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 Wedel, seconded by Member Magee, carried via telephone proxy vote.

Agenda Updates/Changes:

New board member Carm Herman introduced self and willingness to learn and participate on the committee.

New Complaint:

#25-080-9020: According to the complainant, currently placed on the inpatient unit for nine weeks, the hospital is moving towards involuntary admission, after the patient signed a 5-day. The patient is looking for legal advice and wants to be released. DRM provided LAS contact information and what the role of that division role is and to call back if want to move forward with complaint. DRM never heard back and does not have any contact information for follow-up. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored. Right an appropriate discharge.* Member Magee

moved to deny (no consent or further follow-up), not accept and close, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9021: According to the complainant, admitted on a voluntary, signed a 5-day discharge request the next day after admission and there has been no discussion on discharge, per the complainant with the hospital staff. Complaint is wanting to walk off the unit, DRM provided the LAS contact information and what the role and responsibility of that division is. DRM inquired if the complainant wanted to move forward with a complaint and the complainant stated would call HRA back if decides to move forward. DRM has not heard back from the complainant since initial call. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to refuse services and treatment was ignored. Right an appropriate discharge.* Member Magee moved to deny (no consent or further follow-up), not accept and close, seconded by Member Wedel 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 #25-080-9019 – Complaint tabled pending receipt of consent at the March 2025 meeting. The consent was received after the meeting and case was opened. DRM provided update.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

There were no draft reports to discuss or review at this time.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9006 – There was discussion on the report response, and it was stated that the facility has been invited to this meeting and will attend the May meeting.

#24-080-9019 - Member Wedel moved to accept the non-response (unsubstantiated report), close and publish report to the IGAC website, seconded by Member Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy. The acceptance of the non-response, closing and publishing the report will be ratified at the next HRA meeting with a quorum.

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

DRM Weathersby, welcomed New Member Herman again, reintroduced herself, provided background information on self and the rest of the HRA Committee provided introductions and welcome greetings.

DRM restated the need for recruitment of community members (2 members) , stated there are a few members who will be sitting out a year beginning in September 2025.

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.

Adjournment

Member Wedel moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 pm, seconded by Member Herman and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members present in the room, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole S. Weathersby

Nicole S. Weathersby
NW Disability Rights Manager

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main Street., Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.