



State of Illinois
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Tracey B. Fleming
Director

Human Rights Authority
Legal Advocacy Service
Office of State Guardian

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY NORTHWEST REGION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 (corrected)

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103

PRESENT: Colleen Magee, and Dr. Erin Wade (**Chair**) and Zoe Wedel
ABSENT: Kacie Jensen and 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(NW) Region was called to order at 4:10pm 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. Nicole S. Weathersby, DRM read the confidentiality statement. All motions will be carried out by proxy vote via follow-up telephone calls to absent members (who will provide the necessary number to suffice a majority of HRA members in agreement with 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, March 25, 2025, April 15, 2025, and June 10, 2025, will be tabled until the next meeting in the presence of a quorum via motion entered by Member Wedel and seconded by Member Magee, carried via telephone proxy.

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:

No agenda changes or updates.

New Complaint:

#25-080-9025: According to the complainant, voluntarily presented for emergency psychiatric care. Instead of receiving compassionate treatment, was involuntarily hospitalized, restrained, and subjected to abuse, humiliation, and a subsequent unjust arrest. During this time, the following occurred: physically restrained without proper justification, left exposed and vulnerable, without access to adequate clothing or dignity.

Potential Rights Violations: *Right to receive adequate and humane care, right to refuse treatment and services, Unwarranted use of force.* Member Magee tabled complaint for consent until next HRA meeting, seconded by



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Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9026: According to the complainant, while in the ED, was administered “emergency medication” without cause and without notice of restriction of rights usage. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care, right to refuse treatment and services, Unwarranted use of force.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, seconded by Member Magee which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#25-080-9027: According to the complainant, a correctional officer displayed extreme inhumanity. The complainant was denied access to toilet paper for over 24 hours, despite being in clear distress and basic human needs. The officer conduct reflected deliberate indifference, cruelty, and a serious violation of their dignity and health rights. The complainant thought the officers’ actions displayed the following: abuse of authority, neglect and psychological harm, disability-based discrimination and failure to follow state and federal protections for mental health patients and detainees. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care.* Member Magee tabled complaint for consent until next HRA meeting, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9001: According to the complainant, was told by the facility they had to stay and sign a voluntary application. Complainant did not want to be admitted voluntarily but felt they had no choice. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care, right to refuse treatment and services.* Member Wedel moved to tabled complaint for consent and send a certified letter until next HRA meeting, seconded by Member Magee which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9002: According to the complainant, while being held involuntarily administered 3 or 4 injections emergency medication” unnecessarily during this period. Four male security guards present and requested a female be present. Complainant was told that being administered involuntary medication because s being “too loud” and “disturbing others.” Complainant was placed in a padded room. and did not receive any paperwork until being discharged. Per the complainant was told by the hospital staff stating refused the paperwork at the time. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care, right to refuse treatment and services, Unwarranted use of force.* Member Magee tabled complaint for consent until next HRA meeting, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting

#26-080-9003: According to the complainant, the hospital would not allow outside medication to be taken and the medication while in the hospital was making sick and staff wasn’t listening. Complainant stated signing a voluntarily on 07/20/25 and a five-day discharge form on 07/23/25. Then he stated the staff is not allowing him to refuse medication (while security watch) , he wants to be discharged, and the hospital is not allowing him to do this. Complainant also stated that there was inappropriate touch by a doctor. The facility offered & the complainant agreed to complete an SA exam but refused filing a police report and the HRA & LAS both completed complaint forms/inquiries to IDPH. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care, right to refuse treatment and services, Unwarranted use of force.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, seconded by Member Magee which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.



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#26-080-9004: According to the complainant, while on the psychiatric/behavioral health unit, given psychotropic medication unwarranted (staff did not listen that medication given made patient sick). **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to refuse treatment and services.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, 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 #24-080-9029 – Site visit recap from 07/14/25 with HRA members who attended

Case #25-080-9002– Site visit recap from 07/14/25 with HRA member who attended and will send additional questions from HRA member who reviewed the records.

Case #25-080-9003– Site visit recap from 07/14/25 with HRA member who attended and will send additional questions from HRA member who reviewed the records.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

#24-080-9004 - Member Magee moved to accept substantiated draft report with corrections and send to facility for a response, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#24-080-9013 – Member Magee moved to accept non-substantiated draft report with corrections and send to facility for a response, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9006 – Member Wedel moved to accept the non-public response (substantiated report), close and publish report without the response to the IGAC website, seconded by Member Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy. The acceptance of the non-public response, closing and publishing the report will be ratified at the next HRA meeting with a quorum

#24-080-9020 – Member Wedel moved to accept the facility corrections/addendum, non-public response (substantiated report), close and publish report without the response to the IGAC website, seconded by Member



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Magee, which was carried via telephone proxy. The acceptance of the non-public response, closing and publishing the report will be ratified at the next HRA meeting with a quorum

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

DRM restated the need for recruitment of community members (3 members), possible previous member will be rejoining.

September meeting date was changed to September 23rd, agreed by all present and will possibly cancel the October 2025 meeting.

Reminder was given regarding the mandatory training certifications, which are due by October 31, 2025.

Adjournment

Member Wedel moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 pm, seconded by Member Magee 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, September 23, 2025, at the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main Street, Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.