



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, September 23, 2025 (corrected)
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
4302 N. Main St., Conference Room
Rockford, IL 61103

PRESENT: Sang Capone, Dr. Erin Wade (**Chair**) and Zoe Wedel
ABSENT: Kacie Jensen, Colleen Magee and Colleen Parks (**Co-Chair**)
STAFF: Nicole S. Weathersby (**DRM**)
GUESTS: John W. Whitcomb - Monahan Law Group, LLC and potential member

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. 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 (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, June 10, 2025, and August 19, 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 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:

No agenda changes or updates.

New Complaint:

#26-080-9005: According to the complainant/guardian from January through June 2024, the individual consumer service contract was terminated and to reinstate services, a doctor's note was required (which would allow consumer to on outings), and care of consumer became a safety issue/concern for staff and self. Also, consumers needed to be tube-fed, which would only occur in the doctor's office. The terminations were appealed (February 24, October 24 and March 25), all appeals were favorable towards consumer and guardian, but during the appeal process consumer could not participate or receive services. Consumer unexpectedly passed



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away on June 25. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Not allowing required additional services and support .Inappropriate termination of services. Right to receive adequate and humane care.* Member Wedel moved to table for follow-up and additional information, seconded by Member Capone which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9006: According to the complainant, was not given medication or treatment and restrained due to the hospital stating that the patient was verbally aggressive towards staff. No voluntary admission or 5-day discharge was offered or signed. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care, Inappropriate usage of restraints.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept and pursue the complaint, seconded by Member Capone which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9007: According to the complainant, while hospitalized, the hospital staff failed to provide complainant with a 5-day request, after repeating asking for one (twice) and was not included in the discussion of her treatment plan. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to request 5-day discharge request. Right to be included in the treatment planning.* Member Capone moved to table for follow-up and additional information, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9008: According to the complainant, the hospital did not allow a 5-day request to be signed, not able to use and keep cell phone, didn't receive unit handbook or see a psychiatrist. DRM spoke with the unit staff to provide patient with the unit handbook and requested that unit psychiatrist make an appointment to see complainant. Staff accepted a request for a unit handbook for complainants and stated that complainant is seeing a psychiatrist (not the regular one, who is currently on leave. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to request 5-day discharge request, right to be included in the treatment planning.* Member Wedel moved to deny, close and not accept complaint due to issues already being addressed. It was seconded by Member Capone which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9009: According to the complainant/guardian from March 2025 through September 2025, the home has not informed the guardian of any unusual incident reports that have occurred to the resident or in the home, not providing progress reports or updates. Reports and complaints have been brought to other agencies and entities. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Guardian Notification and right to receive adequate and humane care.* Member Capone moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9010: According to the complainant the hospital gave the wrong medication and never provided a 5-day discharge request. DRM explained how the complainant could put in a five-day request and then the complainant stated never requesting or inquiring about staff of a 5-day request. **Potential Rights Violations:** *right to receive adequate and humane care.* Member Wedel moved to deny and close due to issues already being addressed, seconded by Member Capone which was carried out via telephone proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

Comments from the Public:

Introduction of visitors – John W. Whitcomb - Monahan Law Group, LLC and L. Wedel (possible new HRA member)



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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 #24-080-9020 – Report was removed for the agency site, due to complainant not in agreement with outcome (after discussion with agency administrations).

Case #24-080-90209 – Facility Legal Counsel, answered additional questions from the July Site visit.

Case #25-080-9003 – Facility Legal Counsel, answered additional questions from the July Site visit.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

No draft reports reviewed.

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9004 - Member Capone moved to table the acceptance of response until the next HRA meeting seconded by Member Wedel which was carried out via telephone proxy vote.

#24-080-9013 – Member Capone moved to table the acceptance of response until the next HRA meeting seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote.

#24-080-9021 – Member Capone moved to table the acceptance of response until the next HRA meeting seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via telephone proxy vote.

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

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

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 Capone and motion carried via unanimous roll call of “ayes” by committee members present in the room, meeting adjourned.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole S. Weathersby

Nicole S. Weathersby
NW Disability Rights Manger

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