



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker
Governor



Tracey B. Fleming
Director

Human Rights Authority
Legal Advocacy Service
Office of State Guardian

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY NORTHWEST REGION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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: Colleen Magee and Colleen Parks (**Co-Chair**)

STAFF: Nicole S. Weathersby (**DRM**) and Jon Burnet (**Managing Administrator, Northern Regions**)

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 4:05pm 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 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, March 25, 2025, April 15, 2025, June 10, 2025, and September 23, 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:

Two additional complaints were received today, #26-080-9013 and #26-080-9014 for review. The report of # 24-080-9029 will not be addressed today, more time is needed to complete report.



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New Complaint:

#26-080-9011: According to the complaint, it is alleged that the complainant struck a corrections officer and was punished by being confined to a small cell (solitary confinement) without a blanket and toilet paper. Also, reported being shackled 3 different ways and jail staff yelled at complainant to “get off the phone”, although phone conversation just started. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care . Right to refuse treatment and services. Unwarranted use of force.* Member Capone moved to deny and close complaint, due to complainant refusing to sign the consent. Motion was seconded by Member Wedel, which was carried via proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9012: According to the complainant, while being admitted to the ED, a nurse and a man, maybe a security officer, tied to take blood pressure and administer medication and complainant was hit on the head (physical hold) by both people in the process. Also complained, that they received emergency medication unnecessarily and medical services were administered without consent. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care. Unwarranted emergency medication usage .Unwarranted use of restraints.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, seconded by Member Capone which was carried via proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9013: According to the complainant, while being detained for 30 hours in October 2024 after informing officers that they were not suicidal and what their specific medical needs, they were denied usage of specialized material. During booking, the complainant, answered an assessment question with a joking remark referring to physical health condition. The complainant was placed in a bare cell with only a thin, single white mat, approximately half the thickness of the mattress. This inadequate mat rested directly on a concrete foundation, unlike the slightly flexible metal foundation supporting the mattress in the bond-out cell. Also, the complainant stated being told, they would be provided with a medical mattress or double mattress, which was not provided and was not assessed. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to receive adequate and humane care . Appropriate Admission Procedures.* Member Wedel moved to open, accept, open and pursue complaint, pending receipt of signed consent. Motion seconded by Member Capone which was carried via e proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#26-080-9014: According to the complainant/guardian, the SODC is retaliating by not allowing the visitation in the home and has not provided an on-site alternative. The guardian is allowed to complete visits off-site. A care plan meeting took place on September 17th , no copy provided to guardian and was told by staff member, could no longer enter the home, due to reportedly verbally attacking the staff, in which this action is denied. **Potential Rights Violations:** *Right to have unimpeded, private and uncensored communication with persons of her/his choice.* Member Capone moved to open, accept and pursue complaint, pending receipt of signed consent. Motion 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.



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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

All case progresses and updated case summaries actions were tabled until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

Draft Reports for Acceptance:

#25-080-9003 – Draft report was presented and discussed with guest. Presented unsubstantiated report with a suggestion. Member Capone moved to accept non-substantiated draft report with suggestion and send to facility for a response, seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via proxy vote. The complaint will be ratified at the next HRA meeting

Accept Responses, Close and Publish Report:

#24-080-9004 - Member Wedel moved to not accept facility response and send back for clarity . Seconded by Member Capone which was carried via proxy vote. The action will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#24-080-9013 – Member Capone moved to table acceptance of report response (review complaint). Seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via proxy vote . The action will be ratified at the next HRA meeting.

#24-080-9021 – Member Capone moved to table acceptance of report response (review complaint). Seconded by Member Wedel which was carried via proxy vote. The action will be ratified at the next HRA meeting

Other Unfinished Business, Announcements and Comments

IGAC Staff Jon B. announced retirement at the end of the year and thanked all members for their commitment and friendship.

DRM restated the need for recruitment of community members (3 members), will reach out to previous members to possible return.



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Reminder was given regarding that mandatory training certifications, due date has been extended until the end of November 2025.

NW HRA 2026 Schedule was accepted and approved .

Adjournment

Member Capone moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:46pm, seconded by Member Wedel 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 Manger

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, 4302 N. Main Street, Conference Room - Rockford, IL at 4:00pm.