

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY  
SPRINGFIELD REGION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission  
830 S. Spring St., Springfield, Illinois

PRESENT: James Bakunas, Abdush Shakoor, Jimmie Miller, Karen Osgood, Diana Braun, Madison Udy and Lisa Beam.

ABSENT/EXCUSED:

STAFF: Jon Burnet and Gene Seaman      Guests: John Whitcomb, Monahan Law

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Rights Authority, Springfield Region was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by the Springfield Region Chair James Bakunas. Introductions were made.

It was determined that a quorum was present and that business could be conducted. Jon read the confidentiality statement.

Minutes: Jimmie moved to approve the September 30, 2025 open and closed session minutes with a time correction noted. Lisa seconded and the motion carried.

The Chair asked the HRA to consider moving into Closed/Executive Session to accommodate discussion of Report 25-050-9009 with Attorney John Whitcomb, who represents the provider in this case.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Karen made a motion to enter Executive Session at 5:37p.m. pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) and (10) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20) to discuss preliminary case activities. Section 3955/21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955) allows for closed session discussion to protect the confidentiality of eligible persons and Section 110/5 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110) further protects the confidentiality of persons receiving mental health and developmental disability services; the motion was seconded by Lisa and carried as follows: Shakoor – aye; Jimmie – aye; Maddie – aye; Diana - aye. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss preliminary and confidential aspects of cases. The HRA returned to open session at 6:39 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. Executive minutes were recorded. A summary of the closed session includes: updates for progress on visits for 25-9006, and discussion of draft report #25-050-9009 and response 25-050-9005.

Closed session case progress:

25-050-9009 Maddie and Jon reported on their Oct 9 visit with provider staff and the guest attorney. They reviewed a draft report with the HRA and guest attorney.

25-050-9006 Karen and Jon reported on their virtual visit with the provider; a report is forthcoming.

Communications:

Jon reminded the members to complete their annual trainings.

Gene Seaman will be replacing Jon until a Disability Rights Manager is hired for the Springfield HRA region.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications for case acceptance:

Ratification for case non-acceptance:

Ratifications for report acceptance/issuance:

Ratifications for response acceptance, case closure and publications:

New complaints:

26-050-9002 A resident of a treatment/detention facility claims to have been in segregation unjustly since May 2025 when his disabling conditions should not permit, and he was dismissed from therapy for inadequate reasons. Karen moved to accept the complaint for investigation. Maddie seconded and the motion carried.

26-050-9003 Another complaint, this one from anonymous staff, allege that patio time continue to be limited for no adequate reasons. Diana moved to accept the complaint for investigation. Lisa seconded and the motion carried.

Reports for acceptance:

25-050-9009 (Lincoln Prairie BHC) The HRA discussed the contents and findings of the case in closed session and were satisfied; there were no changes. Karen moved to accept the report and issue. Lisa seconded and the motion carried.

Accept responses, close and publish:

25-050-9005 (Packard MHC) A response was reviewed and the HRA expressed hope that the new forms would be helpful. Shakoor moved to close and publish the case. Jimmie seconded and the motion carried.

Other unfinished business, announcements and comments:

The next meeting is on November 25, 2025.

Adjournment:

Maddie moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Karen seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Osgood, Secretary