FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority
Report of Findings
HRA #12-100-9014
Elgin Mental Health Center

In May 2012, the North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) opened this investigation regarding Elgin Mental Health Center, Forensic Treatment Program, Pinel Unit. A complaint was received that alleged that a consumer (receiving services at a down-state mental health facility) was housed overnight at EMHC before being returned to the down-state facility and the overnight room for this type of stay was dirty. If found substantiated, the allegation would be a violation of the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code (405 ILCS 5/2-102).

Consumers receiving services at EMHC's Forensic Treatment Program have been remanded by Illinois County Courts to the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) under statutes finding them Unfit to Stand Trial (UST) and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). Placement evaluations determine the most appropriate inpatient or outpatient setting for forensic treatment based on a number of factors including age, gender, mental health diagnosis, and security need. Unless a person is specifically ordered to receive services in an outpatient setting, court ordered referrals under state forensic statutes call for placement in a secure inpatient setting. The Forensic Treatment Program has 315 beds.

To pursue this investigation, the HRA conducted an on-site visit to the unit at which time the allegation was discussed with the unit's supervisor.

Findings

The HRA learned that about two times per week, EMHC will house down-state consumers that are in the area for court related business. The Pinel Unit typically accommodates these stays, but other units can be used if needed. During the period in question (April 10, 2012) the Pinel Unit used the seclusion room for over-night guests. A tour of this approximate 15' x 15' room showed only a bolted-down bed in the room; the bed had general bedding items. At the time of the tour the room was neat and tidy. It was stated that the room would be cleaned after each use. Consumers using this room would use the unit's common area restroom; this room was toured and noted to be clean. It was stated that the Unit now houses the over-night consumer in a dorm/bedroom.

Conclusion

Pursuant to the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code Section 5/2-102, "a recipient of services shall be provided with adequate and humane care and services in the least restrictive environment, pursuant to an individual services plan."

The HRA cannot discount the complainant's assertion that the room was dirty during his stay, but nothing was found to validate the claim. The allegation is unsubstantiated.

RESPONSE

Notice: The following page(s) contain the provider response. Due to technical requirements, some provider responses appear verbatim in retyped format.

Pat Quinn, *Governor*

Michelle R.B. Saddler, *Secretary*

Division of Mental Health - Region 2

Elgin Mental Health Center ■ Singer Mental Health Center

RECOVERY IS OUR VISION
Recovery is a Personal Journey of Hope, Healing, Growth, Choice, and Change

August 13, 2012

Ms. Kori Larson - Chairperson
North Suburban Regional Human Rights Authority
9511 Harrison Street, W-300
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1565

Re: HRA # 12-100-9014

Dear Ms. Larson:

Thank you for your always thorough review. I note that the allegation was not substantiated. The staff at the Elgin Mental Health Center strives to maintain a clean environment for our consumers. As always, we continue to quickly resolve any consumer issues.

Please include our response with any public release of your Report of Findings.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Brock, M.P.A., M.H.A
Hospital Administrator

PNB/JF/lf

Elgin Mental Health Center
750 S. State St.
Elgin, IL 60123-7692
Voice (847) 742-1040
TTY (847) 742-1073

Singer Mental Health Center
4402 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103-1278
Voice (815) 987-7096
TTY (815) 987-7072