CHICAGO REGIONAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 22, 2009
Olive Garden Restaurant
7513 West Cermak Road, North Riverside, IL

Staff person Pat Betzen opened the meeting of the Chicago Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Olive Garden Restaurant, North Riverside, Illinois.

Members Present: Danielle Garland, Jill Quinto, and Katherine Dunford.

Members Absent: Deanne Medina, Pat Mencinskas, Ray Hemphill, Lana Peck, Edith Bukwa and Elizabeth Vitell.

Staff Present: Pat Betzen

Guests: None.

Staff Pat Betzen noted that a quorum was not present. Votes will be obtained through electronic mail and all actions ratified at the February meeting of the HRA. Pat read the confidentiality statement.

Approval of November 10, 2009 Minutes: Danielle made a motion to approve the November 10, 2009 minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

Communications: Pat Betzen reported that Elizabeth Vitell has requested a leave of absence for several months. Jill Quinto will be the acting secretary while Elizabeth is out.

Pat issued the calendar of HRA meetings for the coming year and members are asked to go online to get a copy if they were unable to be at the meeting (http//gac.state.il.us/hra).

HRA members discussed the prolonged absence of member Pat Mencinskas (no meetings in over a year). Pat Betzen reported that she has left a message for Pat and has e-mailed her but has not heard from her. It was decided that Pat Betzen would write Pat a letter and ask for her resignation. If we do not hear from her by the February meeting, HRA members will vote to have her removed from the Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

New Complaints:

#10-030-9012 It was alleged that facility staff stole clothing belonging to a resident and the facility would not reimburse the resident for the merchandise. The matter was settled informally. Katherine made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

#10-030-9013 It was alleged that the facility admitted the recipient but the recipient was not evaluated in the 8 days in which she was a recipient there and was denied advocacy. A release of information has been obtained. Katherine made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

#10-030-9014 It was alleged that the recipient was unjustly accused by a senior advocacy group and then subsequently arrested and charged for the abuse of his mother and brother. Jill made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

#10-030-9015 It was alleged that the facility would not honor the recipient's Power of Attorney and forged documents to deny the POA his decision-making rights. Documents to authorize Power of Attorney and release of information were not submitted. Jill made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

#10-030-9016 It was alleged that the facility did not inform the recipient of her rights when she was evaluated for involuntary hospitalization. Jill made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

#10-030-9017 It was alleged that the facility deceived the recipient in order to get her admitted for treatment, denied her communication with her psychologist and others for no reason, and did not allow the recipient to meet with her social worker for the first 8 days of her hospitalization. A release of information has been obtained. Katherine made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation. It was properly seconded and carried.

Katherine made a motion to go into closed session at 5:50 p.m. pursuant to Section 3955/21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act to assign cases and discuss reports and other matters which could not be discussed without revealing confidential information. The motion was seconded and carried.

The HRA returned to open session at 6:20 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. A summary of the closed session included case assignment, progress reports on all open cases, discussion of the report for case #09-030-9017 Loretto and #09-030-9019 Chicago Lakeshore.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ratifications: None

Report of Findings:

09-030-9017- Loretto. The HRA reviewed the report and Jill moved to issue the report without revisions or additions. The motion was properly seconded and carried.

09-030-9019- Chicago Lakeshore. The HRA reviewed the report and Danielle moved to accept the report without revisions or additions. It was properly seconded and carried.

Case Closures: None

Case Status Reports:

10-030-9001- Swedish Covenant. A site visit is scheduled for January 11, 2009.

10-030-9002- Madden. A site visit is scheduled for January 28, 2009.

Elections The HRA voted to have Jill Quinto act as secretary until Elizabeth Vitell returns from her leave of absence.

The HRA voted to maintain confidentiality of the closed minutes from the past 6 months.

Announcements and Comments: The next meeting of the Chicago Regional Human Rights Authority is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at Madden Mental Health Center.

Adjournment: The HRA agreed to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elizabeth Vitell, Secretary