Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2011

I: Call to Order:

The regular monthly meeting of the Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority was called to order at 5:20 PM by the Chairperson, Pam O'Connor. The meeting was held at Triple E Meeting, 15 West Frankfort Plaza in West Frankfort.

II: Roll Call:

Members Present: Pam O'Connor, Jim Livesay, Al Farmer, Sharon Mumford, Phyllis Brown
Members Absent: Brad Friend, Clarence Russell, Kathy Rambeau
Staff Present: Judy Atherton
Guests: Paul Jones

III: Determination of a Quorum: It was determined that a quorum was present:

IV: Introductions by Chairperson: The Chairperson introduced Paul Jones, Chairman of Chester Mental Health Center's facility Human Rights Committee.

V: Review and Approval of Minutes from previous Meeting: Mumford moved to accept the minutes of the 02 22 11 HRA meeting as written. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.

VI: Confidentiality Statement: Chairman O'Connor stated personally identifiable information should not be presented in a public meeting to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations. In addition, a printed confidentiality statement was posted.

VII: Communications: None

VIII: New Business:

A: New Complaints:

11-110-9031...Staff at a community mental health facility released confidential information about a client with the client's written authorization. A day prior to the HRA meeting the complaintant called HRA to rescind the complaint and stated that the issue was informally resolved. Livesay moved to not accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9032...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility is not receiving services in the least restrictive environment. 2) The recipient is not allowed to make telephone calls. 3) A staff member has verbally abused the recipient. The verbal abuse was reported to the Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG). Farmer moved to accept allegations 1 & 2, but not to accept allegation 3 for investigation since OIG is looking into that issue. The motion was properly seconded (Livesay) and carried.

11-110-9033...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility has been restricted from drinking coffee. 2) The water in the recipient's room has been turned off. 3) The recipient is forced to take medication that is causing significant side effects. Livesay moved to accept the complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

11-110-9034...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility was inappropriately placed in restraints. 2) The recipient has been physically abused by staff. The abuse was reported to OIG. Mumford moved to accept allegation 1, but not to accept allegation 2 for investigation since OIG will investigate the abuse issue. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9035...1) While at a community hospital a patient was required to remain in an unapproved restraint devise for an extended period of time. 2) The patient was ignored by emergency room staff and allowed to remain in urine soaked clothing. Mumford moved to table opening the case for investigation until more information can be obtained. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9036...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility has been denied access to his personal property items. 2) The recipient has been denied access/communication with his attorney. Brown moved to accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9037...A resident at a CILA is being forced by staff at the facility to attend a church that a resident does not want to attend. Livesay moved to accept the new complaint for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

11-110-9038...1) Staff members at a state-operated mental health facility have teased and called a recipient offensive names. The allegation was reported to OIG. Brown moved to not accept the complaint since OIG will be conducting an investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9039...1) A recipient at a state-operated mental health facility was inappropriately placed in restraints. 2) The recipient has not been allowed to shave. 3) The recipient was physically abused by staff. The abuse was reported to OIG. Farmer moved to accept allegation 1 & 2, but not 3, for investigation. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried.

B: Other New Business: None

C: Public Comments: None

Brown moved to enter closed session to discuss confidential information. The motion was properly seconded (Mumford) and carried. Closed session began at 5:35 PM. When all cases involving Chester Mental Health Center were discussed, the Representative from the facility departed at 6:30 PM. An additional case was discussed after the Representative's departure. Closed session ended at 6:35 PM. Coordinator Atherton summarized the closed session. Case status updates were given for four cases. One Report of Findings was accepted as written. One Report of Findings was accepted, subject to the HRA Director's approval, and one was tabled for acceptance. Three Cases were approved for closure, and the Authority voted to make the findings a part of the public record. One case was approved for closure without issuing a report of findings.

VI: Unfinished Business:

A: Case Status Updates:

11-110-9018...Chester Mental Health Center....Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.
11-110-9020...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.
11-110-9021...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.
11-110-9026...Chester Mental Health Center...Coordinator Atherton provided a case status update.

B: Reports of Findings:

11-110-9013...Chester Mental Health Center...Mumford moved to table approval of the draft report. The motion was properly seconded (Brown) and carried.

11-110-9017...Chester Mental Health Center...Mumford moved to approve the draft report as written and to sent it to the provider. The motion was properly seconded (Livesay) and carried.

11-110-9025...Chester Mental Health Center...Mumford moved to approve the draft report subject to the HRA Director's approval, and to sent it to the provider upon the HRA's Director's approval.

C: Closure:

10-110-9049...Choate Mental Health Center...(MI Division)...Farmer moved to close the case and make the findings a part of the public record. The motion was properly seconded (Livesay) and carried.

11-110-9005...Chester Mental Health Center...Livesay moved to close the case, make the findings a part of the public record and send the report to the complaintant. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

11-110-9014...Chester Mental Health Center...Farmer moved to close the case, make the findings a part of the public record and to send the report to the complaintant. The motion was properly seconded (Livesay) and carried.

11-110-9029...Chester Mental Health Center...Livesay moved to close the case without conducting an investigation and issuing a report of findings since a Release of Information providing the recipient's authorization to conduct the investigation has not been received. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried.

D...Other Unfinished Business: A site investigation to Chester Mental Health Center was discussed. A tentative date of April 14 was considered. Farmer agreed to conduct the investigation. O'Connor and Rambeau may be available.

X...Announcement from the Chairman:

The members agreed to have the next HRA meeting on April 26, 2011 at The Depot, 424 East Davie in Anna.

XI: Adjournment:

Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly seconded (Farmer) and carried. The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Brown, Acting Secretary
Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority