PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
May 18th, 2011

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:12 PM on Wednesday, May 18th, 2011 by Chairperson Steven Watts.

The meeting was held at the Aledo City Hall, 120 North College Avenue, Aledo, IL. 61231

ROLL CALL

Present: Anne Hicke, Flora Knutson, Dean Steiner, Carolynsue Wolf, Steven Watts

Absent: Debra Goodwin, Dolores Sheen, Meri Tucker

Staff: Gene Seaman

Guests: Janelle Crump
Kate Barton
Dean Steiner

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was present.

Introductions were made. Kate Barton and Janelle Crump were guests at the meeting as possible new board members. Steven Watts discussed the Human Rights Authority with the two guests and the Board reviewed new cases, in open session, with the two potential members so they could get a summary of the types of cases that the Board encounters. Neither guest participated in closed session. Kate Barton excused herself from the meeting at 1:45 pm when the Board went into closed session.

The Chairperson stated the personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings to protect the privacy of those persons with disabilities on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The motion was made by to enter closed session at 1:45 p.m. pursuant to Section 120/2 (c) (4) and (10) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 20), Section 3955/10 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955) and Section 110/5 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110); the motion was seconded. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss confidential information regarding new cases, current cases, discuss potential board members, and to meet with guest Dean Steiner. Janelle Crump did not participate in closed session. Dean Steiner left closed session due to conflict of interest from 2:10pm until 2:19pm, then again at 2:53pm until 3:15pm. The HRA ended closed session at 3:15pm and then returned to closed session at 3:54pm to discuss applicants for positions on the Board and returned to open session at 4:05pm having taken no action in closed session. Janelle Crump did not participate in closed session.

MINUTES

Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to accept the March 16th, 2011 meeting minutes. Flora Knutson seconded the motion and it was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The HRA reviewed newspaper articles associated with disability rights.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

There were no ratifications for this meeting

New Cases:

11-090-9020 - Public Health Department - Public Health Department is not accessible in public meeting rooms. Complaint was initiated by HRA. Dean Steiner moved to not accept the case due to the fact that the facility was visited by the HRA and there did not seem to be a rights violation. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and passed.

11-090-9027 - Hospital - Inadequate discharge process, patient was discharged from medical center while still in need of care. Anne Hicke moved to close the case due to lack of release. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and passed. Dean Steiner obstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

11-090-9028 - Hospital - Inadequate care, no food, water or medication for 6 hours after surgery, no physician orders for food water or medication, no discharge plan, staff being rude to patient, staff not responding to call lights, Inadequate explanation regarding condition and treatment with patient. Communication violation; no phone in the room or access to phone for a patient to use. Carolynsue Wolf motioned to accept the case and was seconded by Flora Knutson. The motion passed.

11-090-9030 - School District - Student was bullied and school would not tell parent what was done to the student that committed the bullying other than the student was talked to. IEP not being followed, including student not receiving study guides in advance, aide refusing to read test out loud to student, quizzing the student in algebra instead of teaching her, backing the student off one-on-one aide in algebra even though it was not agreed upon, aide not helping student when she raises hand, not giving the student Word Banks for testing, student getting study guide late and told to take test at the same time as other students, given wrong flashcards, not using set aside "goal time" during the day for goals, sensory diet not being followed. Misrepresenting data collection, asked student for school work to copy and told her it was for another reason than data collection. Inadequate transition planning. Dean Steiner motioned to not accept the case due to lack of release and also because the complainant expressed that they

did not want to pursue the case any longer. The motion was seconded by Anne Hicke and passed.

11-090-9033 - Mental Health Provider - Inadequate discharge from program, client was discharged for missing too many meetings for work while other individuals in the program miss the same amount of meetings and are not discharged. Inadequate treatment, including case manager treating client in a rude and unprofessional manner. Inadequate grievance process, client was not even made aware of the grievance process and learned about it from the receptionist after she was already discharged from the program. The provider has mental health and substance abuse programs. The individual in the complaint is using the methadone clinic but has been diagnosed with a learning disability. Flora Knutson moved to not accept the case due to lack of release. The motion was seconded by Dean Steiner and passed.

11-090-9034 - Hospital - Personal items that were taken upon being admitted to the hospital were not returned to the patient Inadequate grievance process in regard to patient's complaint about the lost items. Flora Knutson motioned to table the case and send the complainant another release. The motion was seconded by Anne Hicke and passed.

11-090-9035 - Mental Health Provider - Inadequate treatment, counselor was unprofessional and would not discuss behavioral health issues with patient. Retaliation against patient for complaints, patient was asked not to come onto the property or call due to legal issues raised by the patient. Violation of confidentiality when two staff members discussed information that a patient asked to be kept confidential. Inadequate medication plan, patient was given medication and then was not tapered off medication which caused withdrawal symptoms. Carolynsue Wolf motioned that case is tabled until Gene Seaman can get some further information asked for by the Commission. Dean Steiner seconded the motion and it passed.

11-090-9036 - Hospital - Individual called crisis line and was not given a chance to talk by the individual answering the phone line. Inadequate treatment, individual spoke to a nurse who said that the individual had a disease that she was not diagnosed with. Inadequate grievance process, when the complainant called in the grievance, no one got back about the call. Flora Knutson voted that the case be tabled until a release is received. Dean Steiner seconded the motion and it was passed.

11-090-9037 - Hospital - The hospital conducted an experimental procedure on a patient without discussing or alerting the family about the procedure. Dean Steiner moved to not accept the case based on the fact that it would be difficult to investigate because the complaint occurred so far in the past. Flora Knutson seconded the motion and it passed.

11-090-9038 - Hospital - The hospital took money from a patient's bank account without the patient being aware that money was being taken out. Dean Steiner moved to not accept the case based on the fact that it would be difficult to investigate because the complaint occurred so far in the past. Anne Hicke seconded the motion and it passed.

11-090-9039 - Hospital - Medication given without patient's consent, patient thought he was getting blood work drawn but really received a medication shot. Dean Steiner motioned to accept the case. Carolynsue Wolf seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Election of Officers

The new Slate of Officers was presented. Meri Tucker would be President, Dean Steiner would continue to be Vice President, and Ann Hicke would continue to be secretary. The motion to accept the Slate of Officers was made by Carolynsue Wolf. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

No unfinished business.

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS

10-090-9026: Methodist Medical Center - Carolynsue Wolf motioned that the Board send a subpoena to obtain remaining information. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and the motion carried. Dean Steiner abstained from the vote.

11-090-9008: Trinity Services - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and this was in the draft report stage. He is awaiting some additional information regarding the report.

11-090-9009: Bridgeway, Inc. - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and this was in the draft report stage. He is awaiting some additional information regarding the report.

11-090-9019: Bridgeway, Inc- - Gene Seaman stated that there had been a site visit and this was in the draft report stage. He is awaiting some additional information regarding the report.

11-090-9022: Methodist Medical Center - Carolynsue Wolf motioned that the Board send a subpoena to obtain needed information. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and the motion carried. Dean Steiner abstained from the vote.

11-090-9025: Methodist Medical Center - Carolynsue Wolf motioned that the Board send a subpoena to obtain needed information. The motion was seconded by Flora Knutson and the motion carried. Dean Steiner abstained from the vote.

11-090-9026: Henry County Housing Authority - Dean Steiner motioned to close the case due to the fact that it would be difficult to investigate because the complaint occurred so far in the past. Carolynsue Wolf seconded the motion and it passed.

11-090-9029: Human Service Center - Gene Seaman stated that Meri Tucker and Dolores Sheen had completed a site visit of the facility.

11-090-9031: Wesley Village - Gene Seaman stated that a site visit has been scheduled with Dolores Sheen and Debra Goodwin.

DRAFT REPORTS

11-090-9015: Warren Achievement Center - Anne Hicke voted to approve the report with one grammatical change. Flora Knutson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

CASE CLOSURES

10-090-9007: Methodist Medical Center - Carolynsue Wolf voted to modify language within the report. Anne Hicke seconded the motion and it passed.

10-090-9034: El Paso Health Care and Rehab Center - Dean Steiner voted to table the case for further information from the facility. Carolynsue Wolf seconded the motion and it passed.

11-090-9003: Midland School District - Carolynsue Wolf voted to table the case for further information provided by Gene Seaman. Dean Steiner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

11-090-9006: Forest Hill Health and Rehab - Dean Steiner voted to table the case pending further information. Anne Hicke seconded the motion and the motion passed.

11-090-9011: District 150 - Carolynsue Wolf voted to close the case. Dean Steiner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

11-090-9012: District 150 - Carolynsue Wolf voted to table the case pending a response. Dean Steiner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Carolynsue Wolf voted to recommend Janelle Crump as a Board member. The vote was seconded by Flora Knutson and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gene Seaman presented Steven Watts with a recognition certificate signed by Teresa Parks and Dr. Mary Milano for his service as the HRA Chairperson. Steven Watts addressed the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

4:15PM

In place of Ann Hicke for the meeting

Deb Goodwin (GS)

Ann Hicke, Reporter