EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
March 15, 2012

Chair Larry Phillips opened the March 15, 2012 meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) at 4:00 p.m. at the State Office Building, Main Conference Room, 2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Members Present: Chair Larry Phillips, Vice Chair Mary Auth, Annette Becherer, Sandra Dixon, Babette Leek, and Janet Manning

Members Absent: Sandra Kopels, William McSurley and George Roth

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf and Katie Hynes

Guests: None

Chair Larry Phillps stated that 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.

Introductions were made.

MINUTES:
Annette Becherer made a motion to approve the January 19, 2012 meeting minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:
None

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications
None

New Complaints
12-060-9001- CILA - The complaint alleges an employee at a CILA home, who has been a friend of the coordinator, had contacted the coordinator to report neglect of a consumer. She had followed agency policy about reporting a medical condition of a consumer to senior staff when the consumer had first become ill. At the end of her shift, she believed that supervising staff would follow up providing care for the consumer. Senior staff ignored the needs of the consumer, until the employee came in the next day. This staff-person had come in a half-hour early from the start of her shift to check on the consumer. Shortly after the staff arrived, the consumer became unconscious and had to be transported by ambulance. At the hospital, the consumer was intubated, and she was diagnosed with double pneumonia and MRSA.

The coordinator, upon receiving the call, advised the staff to contact OIG immediately. The staff did make the call. The staff was fired a few days later and believes it was retaliatory for contacting OIG. OIG has been investigating. If the HRA does approve the opening of this complaint it would be referred to another regional coordinator to complete the investigation. This information was provided from the Director to the Chair. Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to not accept; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

12-060-9008 - Children's Residential Facility - The complaint alleges that a teenager is confined to her room at the facility and the facility does not follow the care plan. Instead of taking her medication as prescribed, she is snorting her medication. The teenager is in DCFS custody. A release was sent on 12/07/11, but has not been received. It was decided to table till the next meeting and to send a second release. A second release was sent on 1/23/12 and was not returned. Sandy Dixon made a motion to not accept; the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9010 - Community Mental Health Center - The complaint alleges that an individual was denied services and was not provided access to his record. A release has been sent, but has not been received. Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to send another release, the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9011 - Hospital Behavioral Health Unit - The complaint alleges that an individual was restrained when he was not a danger to himself or others. He was kept in the unit for several hours against his wishes. A release has been sent, but has not been received. Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to send another release, the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9012 - Special Education - The complaint alleges that a local school district has denied and/or reduced special education services for a child needing speech therapy because he attends a private not for profit school. A release has been sent, but has not been received. Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to open the case to look at school district policies and to pursue the release so the HRA could look at the child's records, the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9013 - Public Transit System - An advocacy newspaper documented that a public transit authority stamps "Disabled" across the bus passes used by people with disabilities. It was large enough that other patrons can read the "Disabled" on individuals passes. Annette Becherer also mentioned other local self advocacy groups may want to support the self advocacy group's actions. Sandy Dixon made a motion to table the case till the next meeting until the coordinator could contact the writer of the article to see if this self advocacy group wanted our help and to see if progress had been made; the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9014 - Apartment Complex - The complaint alleges that an individual with multiple disabilities was evicted because she called the police to make a complaint after her medication was stolen. The individual was accused of drug seeking behavior. The apartment complex provides subsidized housing. The landlord had entered the apartment without permission and served eviction papers to the individual. The coordinator has referred the individual to the U of I tenant's union, Equip for Equality, and HUD. A release has been sent, but not received. Janet Manning made a motion to table the case till the next meeting and send another release; the motion was seconded and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

10-060-9005: Decatur Manor Healthcare - The report is in progress.

10-060-9004: Decatur Memorial Hospital - The report is in progress.

11-060-9009: Veteran's Administration - The report is in progress.

11-060-9012: The Pavilion - The report is in progress.

12-060-9005: Crosspoints - The site visit was discussed.

12-060-9006: Crosspoints - The site visit was discussed.

REPORT OF FINDINGS:

11-060-9010: Decatur Manor Healthcare - Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to approve the report; the motion was seconded and carried.

11-060-9011: St. Mary's Hospital - Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to approve the report; the motion was seconded and carried. The case number needed corrected on the report before the report would be sent to the provider.

11-060-9022: Provena Covenant Medical Center - Annette Becherer made a motion to approve the report conditionally if the comments and the first suggestion were removed; the motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9003: Advocate BroMenn Medical Center - Janet Manning made a motion to approve the report conditionally to allow for some final editing before it was sent. The motion was seconded and carried.

12-060-9007: North Kickapoo House - Sandy Dixon made a motion to approve the report; the motion was seconded and carried.

CASE CLOSURES:

09-060-9014: Center for Human Services - Vice Chair Mary Auth made a motion to close the case; the motion was seconded and carried.

OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Three members of the HRA who had served the first entire three year term agreed to serve another three year term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:
Janet Manning made a motion to adjourn at 5:02 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Cathy Wolf

Cathy Wolf, Recorder

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY
EXCUTIVE MINUTES
March 15, 2012

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act, and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority did ***not*** meet in closed session. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, Main Conference Room, 2125 S First Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

Members Present: Chair Larry Phillips, Vice Chair Mary Auth, Annette Becherer, Sandra Dixon, Babette Leek, and Janet Manning

Members Absent: Sandra Kopels, William McSurley, and George Roth

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf and Katie Hynes

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Wolf

Cathy Wolf, Recorder