

Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2012

Members Present:

Janet Shelton, Member
Debbie Weiner, Member
Linda O'Rourke, Member

Staff Present:

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

Members Absent:

Megan Waldschmidt, Member
James Bakunas, Member
Tara Dunning, Secretary
Donna Ferguson, Vice Chairperson
Jan Little, Chairperson

Guest:

Call to Order:

Member Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was not present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Welcome and introductions were made.

Confidentiality Statement:

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Changes to the Agenda:

Debbie Weiner asked if there were any agenda changes; there were none.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 2012 meeting were reviewed. **Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke seconded by Debbie Weiner members agreed to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried.**

Communications:

The Coordinator discussed a district 186 Open House Informational meeting; stating that he could not attend that meeting he left it open of any member to represent the HRA.

New Complaints:

13-050-9005 an agency does not allow daily fresh air breaks for all consumers. Tabled at the last meeting.

A motion to open was made by Janet Shelton, seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Motion passed.

13-050-9007 - a facility may violate a consumer's rights when it will not honor her five day notice to request discharge. She has no family and would like to return to her apartment, yet the facility is trying to make her consider placement in a different city which leaves her blocked from discharge.

Upon a motion to table by Janet Shelton, seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Members present agreed to table case opening.

13-050-9008 - A consumer was transferred to a nursing facility in Springfield after the facility in southern Illinois where he lived closed abruptly. He is not allowed to exercise his right to live in the least restrictive setting in the town (Centralia or Mount Vernon) of his choice. Now, at the new facility he has a girlfriend and they won't allow them to hold hands and no one is attempting to help him leave. He has bi- polar diagnosis and the Physician at this new facility changed his dosage of Depakote which has made him sicker than he's ever been.

A motion to open was made by Janet Shelton, seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Motion passed.

13-050-9009 - a consumer has been approved by court to move to a lesser restrictive setting at the facility where she lives, or total discharge; however the facility repeatedly blocks her requests. Also, the public defender assigned to her case has blocked her from calling that office even though they have never actually had verbal contact. Now that restriction may be a setback because it makes it look like she is blocked as a result of harassment. The public defender is totally worthless and does not defend her.

Upon a motion to table by Janet Shelton, seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Members present agreed to table case opening.

13-050-9010 - an agency performed a mental health evaluation per court order. The consumer has been successful in the community for the past several years and because she moved, she had to acquire a different agency to provide services and the court ordered evaluation. The staff person from the new agency failed to do her job and report accurately about the accomplishments. The agency scored the consumer very low; after the same agency had denied her services because of high assessment

scores. The assessor appraised time management abilities, money management, nutrition and household stability, healthcare, and communications and leisure entertainment and personal grooming and dress. These scores were contrived without the staff having interviewed the consumer regarding details, visiting her home and investigating other aspects named above. The client is disturbed about the low scores provided to the court.

Upon a motion to table by Janet Shelton, seconded by Linda O'Rourke. Members present agreed to table case opening.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Shelton to enter into closed session at 6:58 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential and potentially identifiable information.

A. Case Progress Reports:

1. 12-050-9020 – Bethesda Lutheran Home – administration of medication
2. 13-050-9001 – Jacksonville Development Center – placement cooperation
3. 13-050-9002 - Memorial Medical Center - forced medication

B. Reports of Findings

1. 12-050-9001 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - sexual abuse/notify guardian
2. 13-050-9004 and 13-050-9006- Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - glasses and treatment planning

C. Case Closures

1. 12-050-9015 - Blessing Hospital - restraint

A motion was made by O'Rourke at 7:10 pm to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Janet Shelton. Motion passed.

OPEN SESSION:

A motion was made by O'Rourke to accept report 12-050-9001. The motion was seconded by Weiner. Motion passed.

Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Debbie Weiner, members voted to accept report 13-050-9004 & 9006 pending administrative approval.

A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Shelton to table closure of 12-050-9015 until a response is received. Motion passed.

Adjournment: Linda O'Rourke made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the HRA. Janet Shelton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Pintar for Secretary Dunning

Date Approved