

**Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
August 27, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Jan Little, Chairperson  
Donna Lynn, Vice Chairperson  
Tara Dunning, Secretary  
Javed Irshad, Member  
Linda O'Rourke, Member  
Debbie Weiner, Member

**Staff Present:**

Michael Pintar, Coordinator

**Members Absent:**

James Bakunas, Member  
Annie Brooks, Member  
Janet Shelton, Member

**Guests Present:**

Barbara Allen  
Gary Allen

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Jan Little recognized that a quorum was present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. 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:**

Chair Little reviewed the agenda and asked for any changes. Pintar requested that we go into closed session first on the agenda to discuss a new complaint.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the July 30, 2013 meeting distributed for review. **A motion was made by O'Rourke to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Weiner. Motion carried.**

**Closed Session:** A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Lynn to enter into closed session at 6:17 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. Motion passed and the committee went into closed session.

**Open Session:**

A motion was made by Lynn at 6:34 p.m. and seconded by Weiner to come out of closed session. Motion carried.

**Communications:**

Pintar distributed information about two trainings; one specifically for HRA members on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Springfield and the second on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Springfield by the Illinois Guardianship Association.

**New Complaints:**

14-050-9002 – a family complains a facility administered a drug that the guardian has made clear not to administer under any circumstances and that the guardian was not notified of a court continuance hearing.

**A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by O'Rourke to open case 14-050-9002 for investigation. Motion passed.**

14-050-9003 – a guardian states the facility does not notify her when her sister goes on trips, often out of town, even though she has requested they do so. The guardian also complains the facility will not return her calls when she phones to inquire of her sister's condition and progress.

**A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Little to open case 14-050-9003 for investigation. Motion passed.**

14-050-9004 – a consumer complains that he was given medication against his will which caused him to have a traumatic episode resulting in a transfer to a more restrictive environment.

**A motion was made by Lynn to open case 14-050-9004 for investigation. The motion was seconded by O'Rourke. Motion carried.**

14-050-9005 – a complaint against a transportation agency states that they agency will not transport any patients unless they receive a copy of the certificate of involuntary admission. The complaint states that the agency refuses to transport any patient who is a voluntary patient.

**A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Dunning to table opening case 14-050-9005 until further information is received\*\*. Motion passed with a 4-2 vote.**

**\*\*Upon further inquiry it was learned that there is no reason why a transportation agency would need any kind of information about a rider except their name and their destination. With this new information an email vote was taken to open case 14-050-9005. A motion was made by Dunning via email to open case 14-050-9005 and seconded by Shelton. Motion carried.**

14-050-9006 – the complaint states that two consumers who live in different agencies have had a relationship for several years. The two consumers have expressed a desire to begin a sexual relationship. The male's guardian has refused this request. The female does not have a guardian. The female's agency has stated that they will allow

the act under supervision only. The complainant believes that the couple functions at the same level and both have been mature in their pursuit of their desires and therefore should be allowed to proceed without interference by the male's guardian or the female's agency.

**A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Weiner to open case 14-050-9006 against the female's agency to review their policies. Motion carried.**

14-050-9007 – a guardian reports she is concerned about changes to the policies of guardians/parents access to medical records at the facility where her son lives. She feels that the new policy is violating the Confidentiality Act and the Mental Health Code. HRA agrees to take it under advisement and directed Pintar to speak directly with the administration about their new policy and to request a copy of the letter sent to staff regarding the change. If he is met with resistance, then the case will be opened for investigation.

**Closed Session: A motion was made by Weiner and seconded by Lynn to enter into closed session at 7:11 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. Motion passed and the committee went into closed session.

**Case Progress Reports:**

Pintar reported that cases 13-050-9013, 13-050-9014, 13-050-9020, 13-050-9024 are all at McFarland and need investigating.

13-050-9018 at Memorial Medical Center also needs to be scheduled for investigation.

**Draft Reports of Findings:**

13-050-9009 – a written report of unsubstantiated findings was distributed for review and approval.

13-050-9022 – a written report was distributed for review and approval. The complaint was substantiated.

13-050-9015 – Pintar reported that it has been less than 30 days and no response has been received.

**Case Closures:**

13-050-9017 – Pintar reported that it has been less than 30 days and no response has been received.

13-050-9021 – Pintar reported that the consumer has retracted the complaint.

13-050-9023 – Pintar reported a response has been received and the agency is in agreement with the recommendations.

**Open Session:**

A motion was made by Weiner at 7:23 p.m. and seconded by O'Rourke to come out of closed session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by O'Rourke to accept the reports for case #13-050-9009 and #13-050-9022 as written. The motion was seconded by Dunning. Motion carried.

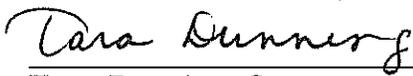
A motion was made by O'Rourke to table closure of cases #13-050-9015 and #13-050-9017 awaiting a response. Weiner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

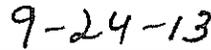
A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by O'Rourke to close case #13-050-9021 without a report of finding. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by O'Rourke to close case #13-050-9023. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** At this time the meeting of the HRA was adjourned with a motion made by Dunning and seconded by Lynn. The next meeting will be held on September 24, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Tara Dunning, Secretary

  
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Date Approved