

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
November 13, 2014

Chair Annette Becherer opened the November 13, 2014 meeting of the East Central Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) at 4:05 p.m. at the State Office Building, Main Conference Room, 2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Members Present: Chair Annette Becherer, Paulette Brock, Sandra Dixon, Sandra Kopels, and Janet Manning

Members Absent: Vice Chair Babette Leek and Monique Smith

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf

Guests Present: None

Chair Annette Becherer 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:

Sandra Dixon made a motion to approve the September 18, 2014 meeting minutes; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

NEW COMPLAINTS:

14-060-9012 – Hospital – The complaint alleges that a patient without due process was not allowed to leave the hospital. At this time she has been there for over 9 months. Per her father's statement, who is the POA, she has tried to leave against medical advice, but the hospital security prevented her from leaving. After the coordinator met with the patient, the hospital did involve the court and Office of State Guardian (OSG) was given temporary guardianship of the patient. An attorney for OSG visited the previous meeting and shared that once the order was received from the judge that OSG would consider signing the release. A motion was made to open the case for investigation upon receipt of the release; the motion was seconded and carried. The attorney shared with the coordinator that OSG could probably sign the release on 11/17/14 after the next court hearing if there is a signed order from the judge.

15-060-9001 – Mental Health Hospital – An anonymous complaint alleges that patients are locked out of their rooms (there are 25 patients) from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - 7:00

p.m. There is only one communal bathroom for them to use when bedroom doors are locked. Allegedly the one bathroom is filthy and there is urine on the floor. There is concern that some of the patients have communicable diseases. Patients have to walk through the urine in order to use the only bathroom available. There is no release because the complaint was anonymous, but we could investigate looking at policies and procedures and possibly making a surprise visit at a later date. The coordinator had referred the complaint to the Department of Public Health. The coordinator was advised by Public Health, that the complaint had been referred to the Joint Commission. At the last meeting the coordinator was advised to contact the Joint Commission to see if there was any follow up. Per conversation with staff at the Joint Commission the complaint had been investigated. However any response or outcome of their investigation would only be provided to IDPH and would not be released to the HRA. Sandra Kopels made a motion to not accept; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

15-060-9003 – Mental Health Hospital – In the process of an investigation, the coordinator discovered that there were possible rights violations regarding unimpeded telephone conversation and notification of third parties that were not included in the original complaint. These complaints could be added to the original case if the HRA chooses to do so or a second case could be opened, but it would require a second release and investigation. Paulette Brock made a motion to not accept, but address the issues in the current investigation; the motion was properly seconded and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS:

14-060-9011 – The Pavilion – The report is progress.

REPORT OF FINDINGS:

13-060-9010: Shapiro Developmental Center – It was decided to respond to the facility's response and not to close the case at this time.

CASE CLOSURES:

None

OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

January's HRA meeting is moved to January 22, 2015 to accommodate the HRA board members schedules so that all may attend.

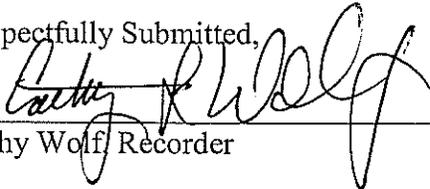
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Janet Manning made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Wolf Recorder