

# METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

April 10, 2014 MINUTES

Chairperson Thomas Cannady called to order the April 10, 2014 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Aubuchon and Cannady's Law offices.

## PRESENT

Beverly Sweatman, Member  
Thomas Cannady, Chairperson  
Emil Wilson, Member  
David Bollone, Member  
Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary  
Karen Kelly, Member  
Christine Anderson - Member

## STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

## ABSENT

Margaret Merrell, Member  
Jane Nesbit – Member

## GUESTS

Jeannie Faith, FAYCO  
Rebecca Franklin, Meridian  
Carl Rashid, Meridian (by teleconference)  
Kathryn Olver, Meridian (teleconference)

## INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson, Thomas Cannady recognized that a quorum was present. Chairperson Cannady acknowledged, with relief, that this will be the last meeting for Coordinator Pintar. Those present mumbled amongst themselves.

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

The Chairperson asked for changes in the agenda and the Coordinator suggested that the FAYCO case # 14-070-9027 be moved to the top of the agenda, after March Minutes approval and prior to new Business to accommodate Ms. Faith.

The Chairperson, Coordinator and members welcomed the visitors present; the first arrival was Jeannie Faith representing FAYCO regarding case 14-070-9018. Later, Rebecca Franklin, Community Care Coordinator for Meridian Health Plan arrived and she was asked, and agreed to wait while the HRA discussed the FAYCO case.

## MINUTES

The members reviewed the stated minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting and considered them for approval. Members present agreed to approve the minutes with suggested corrections based on a motion by Karen Kelly, seconded by Beverly Sweatman.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Coordinator and members discussed HRA operations the visitors and

had a short discussion regarding the meeting place. Thomas Cannady stated the membership could continue holding meetings at his office, or membership could consider other alternatives.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members voted to go into closed session at 7:09 to discuss case 14-070-9018. Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley seconded by Karen Kelly, members voted to come out of closed session at 7:33 pm

At 7:42 upon a motion Karen Kelly, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members went into closed session to discuss case 14-070-9027. At 8:26 pm the HRA returned to open session based on a motion by Karen Kelly, seconded by Emil Wilson.

**New case consideration:**

14-070-9028 - a consumer who was determined unfit to stand trial is being held against her will. She states she was a participant on a religious television program and when she went to court to testify for an acquaintance the court held her because she would only give her newly adopted religious name while the court refused to accept that name and forced her to submit to mental health treatment. According to the consumer she does not have a history of mental illness. Upon a motion by Karen Kelly seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted not to accept the case for investigation.

14-070-9029 - mental health patients are not allowed to go outside for fresh air breaks, since the beginning of winter they have not had fresh air breaks. Also, gym classes were cancelled. Bathroom in the visiting room is closed and if a patient has to use the restroom during visitation, they have to terminate their visit. The Coordinator stated that he had been informed that fresh air breaks had been reinstated. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady seconded by Karen Kelly, members voted to investigate the allegations that gym classes were cancelled and visitation.

14-070-9030 - a grandfather complains that a school district is avoiding offering services to a four year old student with Autism. The complainant states that his son, the student's father is Bipolar and unable to advocate for the child. The school wants to send the student to a special school more than an hour away and the family believes this is too far for a 4 year old to have to travel. The student's teachers complain the student can't sit still and that he has behavioral problems. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members voted to table case opening. Awaiting verification that the student is being transported.

14-070-9031 – A consumer has been denied transportation to and from day training. The agency verifies that there are documented incidents of her screaming (constantly) on the bus, but there is no verification that she is disrupting the bus ride. According to her guardian, she continuously screams no matter who is transporting her. Some providers feel that by the time she arrives to DT she is so escalated that staff cannot de-escalate her screaming behaviors. She is having an SST review. Upon a motion by Karen Kelly seconded by Christine Anderson.

14-070-9032 — a unit search this morning, found a phone charger for what the consumer thought was for an mp3 player. Security said it was a telephone charger. It was plugged in

to an outlet in his room. The staff gave him a notice of restriction that says that unit further notice; today he received mail, package – laundry detergent that had a phone and several other items in it. The consumer lost all of his rights and stated that he did not know who sent him the package and that he believes it was done as an act of revenge by a former staff member with whom he had a sex relationship. A second consumer complained that during the search the staff took a radio he was approved to have a year ago because it had a light on the end of it. That consumer stated that he was on a walk when security screeched up to him, threw him in the van and told him he had lost all privileges because of the light on the radio. The consumer is very upset as this has caused him a huge set back in his bid for discharge. Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley seconded by Karen Kelly, members agreed to investigate part two property and the loss of privileges.

14-070-9033 – A consumer reports that his brother, who is a private investigator, is using a device to listen into his conversations and also he derives thoughts out of the consumer's head. The consumer feels his brother will use information against him because in the past he has threatened to black mail him. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady seconded by Emil Wilson, members agreed not to accept the case. The complaint is beyond the scope of the HRA, no provider involved.

14-070-9034 – a person with mental health issues and a developmental disability has been hospitalized and the hospital wants her out. Mom is guardian but after discussion with daughter is afraid to bring her home at this time. The hospital is not taking appropriate steps when planning discharge. Allegedly DDS was supposed to arrange placement and when that fell through the hospital told Mom/guardian to come get her. The consumer has been there about a week. Upon a motion by Karen Kelly seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members voted for case opening.

**B. Other new business:** The members discussed a meeting held with Alton Mental Health Center administrators, Beverly Sweatman and Christine Anderson. The issue of consumers being allowed possession of media property including lap top computers, games, iPods and other entertainment devices. After discussion, the HRA agreed to have the Coordinator draft a letter summarizing the conference and asking for a time-frame for the completion of the revised policy that the Center has been promising for the past year.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, the Authority returned to closed session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

- 14-070-9002 - Wellsprings of Jerseyville - transportation home from ER
- 14-070-9011 - Memorial - Alton - turned away a patient at emergency room
- 14-070-9014 - Alton Mental Health Center - visitation
- 14-070-9017 – Behavioral Health Services – denied services
- 14-070-9018 – FAYCO Enterprises – arrest DD
- 14-070-9019 - Alton Mental Health Center - forced treatment
- 14-070-9021 - Midway Rehabilitation - discharge
- 14-070-9022 - Wellsprings Resources (Alton) - teleconference for assessment
- 14-070-9026 – Alton Mental Health Center – privileges

B. Report of Findings: 14-070-9023:

C. Case Closures:

13-070-9033 - Alton Mental Health Center - unimpeded communication  
13-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - property  
14-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - property  
14-070-9020 - Alton Mental Health Center - property and visitation

The HRA returned to open session at 8:55 p.m. upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Emil Wilson.

Upon returning to open session:

Report of findings: Upon a motion by Emil Wilson; seconded by Beverly Sweatman members agreed to approval of the report of findings with suggested changes pending Administrative approval.

Case Closures:

13-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - property  
14-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - property  
14-070-9020 - Alton Mental Health Center - property and visitation

Upon a motion by seconded by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Beverly Sweatman, members agreed to closure of cases 13-070-9034 and 14-070-9013.

Beverly Sweatman, made a motion to table case closures for case 14-070-9020 at this time, seconded by David Bollone member voted yes!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

Pintar made a fumbling apologetic style farewell speech that did not include the Gettysburg Address. He stated that he would return!

The next meeting will be May 8, 2014 at Thomas Cannady's offices

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary