

**East Central Regional Human Rights Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2016**

**Members Present:** Paulette Brock, Sandra Dixon, Damon Leek, Kelli Martin, Monique Smith and Robin Spalding.

**Members Absent:** Janet Manning

**Staff Present:** Cathy Wolf and Teresa Parks

**Guests Present:** Mike Reed

Chair, Sandra Dixon, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held at the State Office Building Conference Room, 2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Dixon read the confidentiality statement and there were no members of the public present. HRA Member applicant, David “Mike” Reed, introduced himself and shared his background that included 32 years at the VA working with the home services and medical programs, prior experience with DCFS, prior experience in the military and experience as a Peace Corp volunteer. Mike is now retired. HRA Members introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

**Minutes:** Paulette Brock made a motion to approve the January 21, 2016 meeting minutes; Kelli Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Communications:** HRA Members discussed the current means to access documents through the drop box. A demonstration was attempted. HRA Members indicated that they had successfully accessed the box, and those who experienced problems were able to reach GAC’s IT Support staff for assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

**Ratifications:**

None.

**New Complaints:**

16-060-9008 – Recovery Court – An individual under guardianship has agreed, without her guardian’s consent, to “participate” in recovery court. The public defender’s office, state’s attorney’s office and probation department work cooperatively with the court to provide services including mental health services to the individual, but the guardian is not consulted or allowed to participate in any plan of care. Per the public defender’s office, there were not aware of any laws that would require them to adhere to the Mental Health Code. A release has been secured. Cathy Wolf attempted to set up a meeting to discuss the situation with recovery court representatives to no avail. Teresa Parks reached out to legal staff who questioned the process for persons with disabilities but all agreed that the court process falls outside the HRA’s scope. A referral was made to a legal entity in McLean County with no response to date. Kelly Martin

made a motion not to accept the case; Monique Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9009 – Recovery Court – Allegedly, another individual under guardianship who is partially blind, schizophrenic with Bipolar Disorder, Epileptic and a history of developmental disabilities has been accused of robbery with a weapon. The individual states he had nothing to do with the crime and the public defender has recommended that he plead guilty. He reportedly fired his public defender and has no representation. The HRA has a release but the legal issues may need a referral elsewhere. Cathy Wolf referred the matter to Equip for Equality and they have recently been involved. Teresa Parks reached out to legal staff who agreed that the court process in this case is beyond the HRA's scope. Kelli Martin made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation; Monique Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9015 – County Jail – The complaint alleges inadequate mental health services and food concerns that were not adequately addressed. A release has been secured. Robin Spalding made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation; Kelly Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9016 – Hospital Behavioral Health Unit – The complaint alleges that a recipient did not meet criteria for admission, did not meet criteria for pursuing court ordered treatment and was inappropriately restricted from using the phone. Kelly Martin made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation; Robin Spalding seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9017 – Psychiatric Hospital – The complaint alleges that the hospital failed to accommodate a patient's PTSD related to a sexual assault and refused to honor the patient's request for male staff to know before entering her room as well as a request for a female versus a male psychiatrist. The complaint also states that the patient receives inadequate care when the patient has only been able to meet with a case manager once in the week that the patient has been on the unit and has had limited contact with the psychiatrist; in addition, the patient versus the case manager has pursued discharge/outpatient planning. Finally, when the patient signed a 5 day notice of discharge, the patient was immediately threatened, by the psychiatrist to be taken to court. Paulette Brock made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation; Monique Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**HRA Member Recruitment** – Another individual had submitted an application which the HRA reviewed. She will be invited to the May HRA meeting. And still another individual will be submitting an application. Teresa Parks reported that Janet Manning's term of office ends at the end of May. Paulette Brock is up for reappointment in May; Paulette voiced agreement in serving another term.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Monique Smith made a motion to go into closed session at 4:55 p.m. pursuant to the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2) to discuss confidential case details regarding the following cases: #16-060-9015;

16-060-9016; 16-060-9017; 16-060-9001; 6-060-9005; 16-060-9014; 15-060-9003; 15-060-9010; 16-060-9003; 16-060-9007; and 15-060-9008. Kelli Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried. Guest, Mike Reed, exited the meeting at this time. The HRA returned to open session at 5:27 pm having taken no action in closed session. A summary of case discussion follows.

**Case Progress Reports**

16-060-9001 – Thresholds Kankakee – The site visit has been completed and additional records have just been received. The case is ready for a report.

16-060-9005 – Central Illinois Service Access – A site visit has been completed. The HRA is awaiting additional documents.

16-060-9014 – Shapiro Developmental Center – A site visit is being scheduled and the HRA is awaiting additional documents.

**Reports of Findings**

15-060-9003 – Kankakee Terrace – Cathy Wolf is working on the report and it is not yet ready for the HRA’s review.

15-060-9010 – St. Mary’s Hospital – Robin Spalding made a motion to approve the draft report; Sandra Dixon seconded and the motion carried.

16-060-9003 – Presence Covenant Medical Center – Robin Spalding made a motion to approve the draft report with revisions; Sandra Dixon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9007 – Advocate BroMenn Medical Center – Robin Spalding made a motion to approve the draft report; Sandra Dixon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

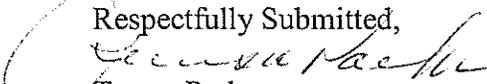
**Case Closure**

15-060-9008 – McLean County Center for Human Services – There was no response and none was required due to unsubstantiated findings. Robin Spalding made a motion to close the case and make the report public; Damon Leek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Other Unfinished Business:** Robin Spalding made a motion to recommend Mike Reed for appointment to the East Central HRA; Kelly Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Announcements and Comments:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2016.

**Adjournment:** Robin Spalding made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Damon Leek, and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Teresa Parks