

**Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 26, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at El Jalapeno Meeting Room, 101 Leigh Ave., Anna, IL. Chairperson Pam O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. and read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Pam O'Connor, Ginger McBride, Paul Jones, Victor Metzger, Rebecca Lewey and Kay Phillips.

Members Absent: Mary McMahan, Kathy Rambeau and Sue Barfield

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: None

Minutes: Ginger McBride made a motion to approve the March 24, 2016 meeting minutes. Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

Communications: Kim Conway discussed a webinar training her and Kathy Rambeau participated in entitled "Sexual Self-Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities" and handed out a power point presentation from that training. There was also another training on the "Rules of Sex" [for persons with disabilities] that was not attended, but Kim handed out printouts from their website which contained resources for that topic. "Listening Tours" regarding the ESSA [every student succeeds act] were held, but none of the HRA members were able to attend. Kim shared the website and informed the board that future listening tours will be scheduled. The IGAC's IT Support Department is working on a way to post that link to the members' website for future reference. The Disability Scoop newsletter had an article in which Federal education officials reminded states and school districts that they have an obligation to provide special education services to kids with disabilities even if they live in institutional settings. The information was shared with the members of the board reminding them that schools cannot refuse those services even if children live in nursing homes or other institutional settings. Finally, a class action lawsuit entitled Rasha v. Baldwin has been settled and the specifics of that were discussed. The lawsuit has been in the court system since 2007 after an offender at a Correctional Center filed suit challenging the delivery of mental health services within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). This settlement is intended to provide adequate care for offenders with mental illness and improve their quality of life and the safety within the correctional facilities.

Ratifications: None

New Complaints:

1. 16-110-9013 Community Day Training Facility: Alleges that several recipients from a DT program were not allowed to attend a spring dance due to their disabilities. Some reasons given for denying certain recipients to attend were that they were short staffed and could not attend to that person's needs due to them being in a wheelchair. Staff wanted people who could toilet themselves and are ambulatory to attend. Another recipient was denied because she pinches and scratches if people get too close, therefore it was a safety issue. One complainant had stated that the DT program had taken away vacation days because there were going to have more fun days and activities but then

they didn't include everyone. Have signed releases from 4 of the recipients' guardians. Paul Jones made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

**Other New Business:** Paul Jones has served his initial 3 year term and would like to renew his membership for another 3 year term. Ginger McBride made a motion to renew the membership, Pam O'Connor seconded and it carried. The board members also discussed two upcoming vacancies on the board as of June 30<sup>th</sup> when Sue Barfield and Pam O'Connor have to leave the board due to serving the maximum 6 year term. No new applications have been received as of the meeting date. The board was reminded to seek out people who might want to serve and invite them to the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. New board members will have to be elected at that time. Fiscal Year 2017 officers were also voted on. Pam O'Connor nominated Paul Jones as Chairperson, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried. Ginger McBride nominated Rebecca Lewey to serve as Vice Chairperson, Pam O'Connor seconded and it carried. Pam O'Connor nominated Kathy Rambeau to serve as Secretary, Kay Phillips seconded and it carried.

**Unfinished Business:** Ginger McBride made a motion to enter into closed session at 6:12 p.m. pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and Section 120/2 (c) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2); the motion was seconded by Rebecca Lewey and it carried. The following summary of items was discussed in the closed session: case progress was reviewed for 16-110-9005, 16-110-9006, 16-110-9007, 16-110-9009 and 16-110-9012; the draft report was reviewed for 16-110-9004. Case closure was considered for 15-110-9019 and 16-110-9002. Kay Phillips made a motion to return to open session at 6:30 p.m. having taken no action in closed session, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

### **Case Progress Reports:**

**16-110-9005 Chester Mental Health** – The report is in progress and is almost finished. There is some additional information needed from the chart which will be reviewed again next week during the Chester visit.

**16-110-9006 Chester Mental Health** – This report is in progress and should be completed for the July meeting.

**16-110-9007 Chester Mental Health** – The investigation is complete and the case is ready for report.

**16-110-9009 Union County Hospital** – Additional records are still needed as well as two more interviews. The case is still under investigation.

**16-110-9012 Choate Developmental Center** – Interviews with administration have taken place. Chart reviews are still needed and some more interviews. The case is still under investigation.

### **Report of Findings:**

**16-110-9004 Fayette County Jail** – The report of findings was reviewed and no additions or changes were suggested. Rebecca Lewey moved to approve the draft report as stated and send it to the provider. Paul Jones seconded and it carried.

**Case Closures:**

**15-110-9019 School for the Hearing Impaired** – No response to the report of findings was required and none was received. Ginger McBride made a motion to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

**16-110-9002 Chester Mental Health** – No response to the report of findings was required and none was received. Rebecca Lewey made a motion to close the case and make the report a part of the public record. Paul Jones seconded and it carried.

**Other Unfinished Business:**

The board discussed past executive minutes and whether or not to keep them confidential. Kay Phillips made a motion to keep executive minutes through March, 2016 confidential, Paul Jones seconded and it carried. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2016 at Shawnee Community College Extension in Anna, Illinois.

Paul Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginger McBride, Secretary