

# **METRO EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES –April 14, 2016**

The regular stated meeting of the Metro East Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 5:01 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2016 by Chairperson, Michael Pintar.

This meeting was held at Developmental Disability Service of Metro East (DDSME), 2900 Frank Scott Parkway West Suite 928 Belleville, IL.

HRA Members Present: Jane Nesbit, Catherine Goebel, Michael Pintar, Lou Ruocco and Andrea Frazier.

HRA Members Absent: Beverly Sweatman

Guests: Amy Melchert and Denise Bradley

Staff Present: Jo Ann Russell-Baum

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

The HRA Coordinator, Board Members and guests introduced themselves. Amy Melchert was identified as a possible Mental Health Provider candidate for the board and Denise Bradley was identified as a possible Vocational Rehabilitation Provider candidate for the board.

Michael Pintar, Chairperson, discussed the overall function and process of the HRA for the two guests who are being considered as HRA volunteers. The coordinator and board members also added their input, discussed their experiences as HRA employees and volunteers and answered any questions that the guests had.

Michael Pintar recognized that a quorum was present.

Michael Pintar 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.

Michael Pintar asked for any changes in the agenda and Jodi Russell-Baum notified the HRA that report # 15-070-9020 was not ready and will be moved from the draft report review to unfinished business.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the stated meeting of March 14, 2016 were reviewed and upon a motion by Member Lou Ellen Ruocco, seconded by Catherine Goebel, members voted to accept the minutes as written.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

JoAnn Russell-Baum informed HRA members that a response was received for the DRS case, although the case was previously closed and an enforcement referral was sent to the agency. The response was reviewed and the HRA board had questions as to when the background checks would begin. This will be followed up on by Jodi Russell-Baum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ratifications**

None

**New Complaints** The HRA considered the following cases for acceptance.

**16-070-9009 -- mental health hospital** — disability discrimination, disability insensitivity. The complaint states that a hospital representative, during a brown bag lunch presentation, talked about individuals with IDD in an insensitive manner, stated that he would not allow “them” in “his” hospital and will do anything necessary to keep them from being admitted. Catherine Goebel made a motion to open the case, Andrea Frazier seconded the motion and the motion carried. Complaint accepted.

Guests, Amy Melchert and Denise Bradley were dismissed before the HRA entered the closed session portion of the meeting.

## **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 Jane Nesbit, seconded by Michael Pintar, the Authority went into closed session at 5:55 pm to discuss case progress, reports of findings, provider responses and case closures and review HRA applications.

The HRA returned to open session at 6:42 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. A summary of closed session discussion is as follows:

### **Case Progress Reports**

**15-070-9020 – Molina Healthcare** -- benefits covered, medical condition, etc. Report needs finalized with additional rules and regulation review.

**15-070-9024 – Madison County Juvenile Detention Center**– counseling services. Report needs written.

**15-070-9025 – Alton Mental Health Center** – property. Report needs written.

**16-070-9003 --Alton Mental Health Center** – privilege level, ROI completed. Report needs written.

**16-070-9004 – Alton Mental Health Center** -- privilege level. Report needs written. Combine report with 9003.

**16-070-9007 – Gateway Regional Medical Center** – least restrictive environment. Needs site visit, tentative date 4/21.

**16-070-9008 – Alton Mental Health Center** – Dental – Needs site visit.

### **Draft Report Review**

NONE

### **Reviews of Provider Responses**

**15-070-9010 – Madison County Jail** – medication/medical care. A change in leadership has occurred at the jail and Captain Joseph has requested an extension of 30 days. He reports that the report is in the legal department being reviewed.

**15-070-9016 – Caseyville Nursing Home** -- POA agent; physician services. The response was reviewed and discussed. The question was raised as to whether the HRA can send the report to the owner of the facility.

**16-070-9001 – Alton Mental Health Center** – meal portions. The response was reviewed although no response was required.

Upon returning to open session the HRA considered the following actions:

### **Motions Regarding Report Approvals**

NONE

### **Case Closures**

**15-070-9010 – Madison County Jail** – medication/medical care. A Motion was made by Andrea Frazier to table the case. Catherine Goebel seconded the motion and the motion carried. Case tabled until a response is received.

**15-070-9016 – Caseyville Nursing Home** -- POA agent; physician services. The response was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Jane Nesbit to close the case and making the findings public. Lou Ellen Ruocco seconded the motion and the motion carried. Case closed. The provider does not want their response published.

**16-070-9001 – Alton Mental Health Center** – meal portions. The response was reviewed, although no response was required. A Motion was made by Jane Nesbit to close the case and making the findings public. Andrea Frazier seconded the motion and the motion carried. Case closed. The provider does not want their response published.

### **Approval of New Board Members**

Jane Nesbit made a motion to recommend both Amy Melchert and Denise Bradley as HRA

members and send their applications for further approval. Cathy Goebel seconded the motion and the motion carried. The applications will be forwarded to Teresa Parks, HRA Director.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS and ADJOURNMENT:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016, 5:00pm at DDSME. The need for board members was discussed and additional suggestions were made.

Jane Nesbit made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lou Ellen Ruocco seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Jane Nesbit  
Secretary