

PEORIA REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY MINUTES
July 21st, 2010

The regular stated meeting of the Peoria Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 1:05 PM on Wednesday, July 21st, 2010 by Chairperson Steven Watts.

The meeting was held at Gateway Services, Inc, 406 South Gosse Blvd, Princeton, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ann Hicke, Jeremy McNamara, Deb Goodwin, Steven Watts, Carolynsue Wolf

Absent: Dean Steiner, Meri Tucker, Flora Knutson, Dolores Sheen

Staff: Teresa Parks, Gene Seaman

The Chairperson stated that a quorum was present.

The Chairperson stated the 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.

MINUTES

Carolynsue Wolf made a motion to approve the May 19th, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The HRA reviewed articles about service dogs, exercise for those with disabilities, and HRA yearly statistics.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

10-090-9026 - Methodist Medical - The case was opened as an emergency case but put on hold to discuss a possible conflict of interest. The case was motioned to ratify. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9031 - Timber Creek Rehab and Health Center - The case was opened as an emergency case. Jeremy McNamara motioned to ratify. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9030 - Bridgeway, Inc.- Case was accepted pending release at last meeting. No ratification needed.

New Cases:

10-090-9034 - Nursing Home - Housekeeping does an inadequate job of cleaning. Staff is demeaning to residents. Patients are not receiving medication at the right time. Staff and patients do not follow State smoking requirements. Residents clothing and personal belongings are lost or stolen even though clothing is marked. Inventories are not done at admission or are done on later dates and then backdated. Residents do not know their rights. If residents complain, the staff takes things away from them in retaliation. Staff is not adequately maintaining the Center. **The HRA halted this as an emergency case opening pending the Department of Public Health's investigation. Ann Hicke motioned to accept case. Motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9022 - Jail - The complaint alleges an inmate's inability to access mental health services at the jail, including access to medications. The complaint also states that the inmate was to be transferred to a mental health center and the transfer has not occurred. No reason has been given for the inmate not being transferred. **A release was received. Carolynsue Wolf motioned to accept case. Motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9024 - Housing Authority - The complaint alleges that the housing authority provides inadequate maintenance to the resident's home. **Complainant does not want to continue with case. Deb Goodwin motioned to close case. Motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9025 - School District - The complaint alleges that the school would not allow a student with a stress disorder to go home when the student was feeling stress. The student's parent requested a special education evaluation to set up school services and to get an accommodation that would allow the student to go home when feeling stressed but the evaluation was refused by the school. Also, the student is not being allowed to participate in the school's graduation ceremony due to multiple absences. The student was also bullied while at school. **The complainant decided they did not want to continue with case. Jeremy McNamara motioned to close case. Motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9027, 10-090-9028, 10-090-9029 - Hospitals - The complaint alleges that three hospitals conducted inadequate evaluations, offered no information regarding a patient's condition or proposed treatment, and refused to provide test results for a condition that resulted from the patient's exposure to hazardous substances. **Information regarding diagnosis was received. Jeremy McNamara moved to not accept case due to the length of time that has passed since the incidents occurred in 2001 and because the issues involve medical concerns considered to be beyond the Authority's scope. Motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9032 - Mental Health Center - The complaint alleges that the hospital did not adequately explain the admission process. The center did not communicate adequately with patient. Patient was at the center for a month without knowing why she was there. The center forced medication on a patient even though the patient refused. **We have one faxed release (sent by a referral) but we have not received a more detailed release that I sent. Carolynsue Wolf motioned to accept the case. The motion was seconded and carried.**

10-090-9033 - Community College - The complaint states that an instructor was verbally derogatory. The instructor would not honor accommodations regarding disability. The college has an inadequate grieving process. The school has services available for students that the complainant attempted to use. **Release was received. Carolynsue Wolf and Teresa Parks were excused due to conflict. Jeremy McNamara motioned to not accept case because complaint indicates that necessary documents were not provided to the instructor. Motion was seconded and carried. Due to lack of quorum, matter will be ratified at next meeting.**

11-090-0001 - Provider Apartment Complex - The complaint states that the provider allows smoking in two apartment complexes but will not allow smoking in another complex. Release has not been received. **Ann Hicke motioned to table case pending release. Motion was seconded and carried.**

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act, and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Deb Goodwin made a motion to enter closed session at 2:09PM to discuss confidential information regarding case progress, draft reports and case closures: The motion was seconded and carried. The HRA returned to open session at 3:19PM having taken no action in the closed session.

CASE PROGRESS REPORTS

10-090-9001: Five Points - Carolynsue Wolf moved to send the case as a referral to the Office of the Attorney General and close the case. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9007: Methodist Medical Center - John Burnett would like to go on another site visit of the facility.

10-090-9015: ARC of Rock Island County - Site visit was completed by Steven Watts, Jeremy McNamara, Gene Seaman, and Teresa Parks. Info was sent to Department of Human Services for verification and a release needs resent to ARC. Report is pending.

10-090-9023: Farmington School District - Site visit was completed by Ann Hicke, Meri Tucker, and Gene Seaman. More documentation is to be sent by the school.

10-090-9030: Bridgeway, Inc. - Site visit was completed by Jeremy McNamara, Steven Watts, and Gene Seaman. Report is pending.

10-090-9031: Timber Creek Rehab and Health Center - Site visit was completed by Carolynsue Wolf, Ann Hicke, and Gene Seaman. Report is pending

DRAFT REPORTS

10-090-9010 - Midland School District - Jeremy McNamara motioned to accept report with changes. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9011 - Human Service Center - Jeremy McNamara motioned to accept report with changes. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9017 - St. Margaret's Hospital - Deb Goodwin motioned to accept report with changes. The motion was seconded and carried.

CASE CLOSURES

10-090-9002: Davies Square - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case, make the report public, and send the case for enforcement referral due to lack of response. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9004: Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center - Jeremy McNamara moved to close the case and make the report public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9006: Charter Oaks School - Jeremy McNamara moved to close the case and make the report public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

10-090-9008: Illini Bluffs School District - Ann Hicke abstained due to conflict. Deb Goodwin motioned to close the case and make the report public record. The motion was seconded and carried. Case will be ratified at next meeting due to lack of quorum.

10-090-9014: CWTC - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case and make the report public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

09-090-9017: Henry County Jail - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case, make the report public, and refer the case for enforcement due to lack of response to the last letter sent to the jail. The motion was seconded and carried.

09-090-9019: Methodist Medical Center - Deb Goodwin motioned to close the case and make the report public. The motion was seconded and carried.

09-090-9021: DD Homes Network - Carolynsue Wolf motioned to close the case, make the report public, and send the letter for enforcement referral due to lack of response. The motion was seconded and carried.

09-090-9022: Southside Office of Concern - Ann Hicke motioned to close the case and make the report part of the public record. The motion was seconded and carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Peoria Regional HRA is scheduled for September 15th 2010 at the Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living in LaSalle.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made to adjourn at 3:35PM. The motion was seconded and carried.

Ann Hicke (gs)
Ann Hicke, Reporter