

**ILLINOIS GUARDIANSHIP AND ADVOCACY COMMISSION
HILTON HOMEWOOD SUITES HOTEL
40 East Grand Avenue
Wrigley Room
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 644-8754**

**COMMISSION MINUTES
March 21, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joanne G. Perkins, Vice Chairperson
Susan Alvarez
Seymour Bryson, Ph.D.
Glenn Jackson
Susan B. McMahon
Saul J. Morse
Kenley R. Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT

Betty A. Bollmeier
Representative Mary Flowers
Senator Todd Sieben
Susan B. Tatnall

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Nancy DeMarco, Director
John H. Wank, General Counsel and Deputy Director for Programs
Teresa Parks, Director of the Human Rights Authority
Jeff Plesko, Director of the Legal Advocacy Service
Helen Godlewski, Director of the Office of State Guardian
Pat Long, Director of Human Resources
Kate Steigerwald, Director of Legislative Affairs and Public Information
Carol R. Tipsord, Director of Fiscal Operations
Jerry R. Turnbull, Director of Financial Operations
Jeff Derrick, Chief Internal Auditor
Jan Pinkerton, Office Administrator

REGIONAL STAFF PRESENT

Jon Burnet, Human Rights Coordinator, Northwest Regional Authority
Inez Toledo-Hansen, LAS Staff Attorney, Chicago General Office
Krista Butler, GMA Northern Regions, West Suburban Regional Office
Louis Williams, Guardianship Estate Representative, Chicago General Office
Laura Sakas, OSG Managing Attorney Northern Regions, Chicago General Office
Sandra Hayes, Guardianship Intake Supervisor, West Suburban Regional Office

GUEST

Walter Bankson, Human Rights Authority Member, Northwest Regional Authority

MINUTES

The March 21, 2002 meeting of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission (IGAC) convened at 11:00 a.m. at the Hilton Homewood Suites Hotel in the Wrigley Room, 40 East Grand Avenue, Chicago. **Commissioner Joanne G. Perkins**, Vice Chairperson, presided.

OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Perkins welcomed the new Commissioners, staff and guest present to the Commission Meeting.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director DeMarco also welcomed those in attendance and spoke of the expertise represented in the new Commissioners. Each person present then gave their background.

MINUTES

A motion was made by **Commissioner Susan B. McMahon**, seconded and carried, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2001 Commission Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

The following people were presented for appointment to Regional Authorities by Teresa Parks. **Commissioner Kenley R. Wade** made a motion in favor of the appointments; the motion was seconded and carried: *Heena A. Musabji*, a Citizen from Oak Park, to the Chicago Regional Authority; *Jeremy McNamara*, a Citizen from Monmouth, to the Peoria Regional Authority, effective June 2002; *M. Marva Allison*, a Citizen from South Holland; *Madeleine Jones*, a Rehabilitation Provider from Plainfield, effective August 2002; and *Evelyn Martin*, a Citizen from Park Forest, effective August 2002, to the South Suburban Regional Authority; and *Linda L. O'Rourke*, a M.H. Provider from Springfield, to the Springfield Regional Authority. Letters confirming appointments will be sent.

REAPPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by **Commissioner McMahon**, seconded and carried, to approve the following reappointments to the Regional Authorities.

The Commissioners reappointed *Lianne Anderson*, a Citizen, and *Robin L. Spalding*, a D.D. Provider, to the East Central Regional Authority, effective May 2002; *Sumner H. Garte, Ph.D.*, a Citizen, to the North Suburban Regional Authority, effective May 2002; *Larry Just*, a Citizen, and *James N. Simkins*, a V.R. Provider, to the Peoria Regional Authority, effective May 2002; and *Charles Pirerra*, a Citizen, to the Springfield Regional Authority. Letters confirming the reappointments will be sent.

END OF TERM

The Commission expressed thanks to *Diana Krandel*, from the East Central Regional Authority, and *Kori L. Larson*, from the North Suburban Regional Authority, whose terms will end effective May 2002, for their years of service. Letters of appreciation will be sent.

RESIGNATIONS

The Commission expressed thanks to *Kelly Czarnecki*, from the East Central Regional Authority, and *Connie Schiele*, from the Peoria Regional Authority, who resigned. Letters of appreciation will be sent.

HRA CASE TRANSFER

A motion was made by **Commissioner Glenn Jackson**, seconded and carried, to approve the transfer of a case from the Chicago Regional Authority to the North Suburban Regional Authority due to a pending, related case in the North Suburban HRA Region. The case transfer will facilitate service continuity.

HRA ENFORCEMENT REFERRAL

A motion was made by **Commissioner Saul J. Morse**, seconded and carried, to send HRA Case #01-110-9029 to the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Health Care Financing Administration for enforcement action. The Egyptian HRA substantiated a complaint alleging that Carbondale Nursing and Rehabilitation Center failed to provide adequate nursing care for a resident in violation of the Illinois Administrative Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 300.1210).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Director DeMarco, in the absence of a Nominating Committee, proposed a slate of FY2003 officers: Joanne G. Perkins, Chairperson; Kenley R. Wade, Vice Chairperson; Susan B. McMahon, Secretary; and State Senator Todd Sieben, Treasurer. A motion was made by **Commissioner Seymour Bryson, Ph.D.**, seconded and carried unanimously, to accept the slate of officers.

COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION

Following the Commission Meeting, there was an orientation for the new Commissioners.

Commissioner Perkins spoke of Director DeMarco's fine leadership in making IGAC visible. The Director proceeded to guide the Commissioners through the Orientation Manual. She stated IGAC has 134.5 staff and that the 10% increase in our budget for FY02 will see us through this year.

OFFICE OF STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE REVIEW (OSPR)

Teresa Parks, Director of the Human Rights Authority and Office of Strategic Planning Key Contact, provided an overview and explanation of the Strategic Plan.

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY (HRA)

Jon Burnet, HRA Rights Coordinator for the Northwest Regional Authority, and Walt Bankson, a Member of the Northwest Regional Authority, presented a step-by-step case study of a HRA referral.

LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE (LAS)

Jeff Plesko, Director of the Legal Advocacy Service, provided a general overview of LAS activities, including trial and appellate court appointments, non-appointed representation pursuant to a sliding fee schedule based on income, outreach and referral activities, with approximate numbers for the most common activities. The purpose and significance of the LAS Appellate Update and a very general explanation of the appellate process and standards for pursuing a case or seeking withdrawal was provided, with reference to the development of a Brief bank for use by LAS attorneys when facing issues that have been addressed by their peers. LAS information on the Commission's web page was also noted, including the LAS Mental Health Decisions Outline.

Inez Toledo-Hansen, an LAS Staff Attorney from the Chicago General Office, gave an overview of her work at Read Mental Health Center and Elgin Mental Health Center. She holds court hearings at these two facilities twice a week. Ms. Toledo-Hansen explained that her interest in working at IGAC was "to be a voice" for persons with disabilities to protect and enforce their rights guaranteed by Illinois mental health laws. **Commissioner Susan Alvarez** thanked Inez for being "that voice".

A copy of “A Guide to Advance Directives: Deciding Your Future Mental Health Treatment” was distributed to the Commissioners.

OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN (OSG)

Helen Godlewski, Director of the Office of State Guardian, explained that the “outreach of OSG” is in presentations such as speaking engagements to community groups, service providers and students about adult guardianship and alternatives to guardianship. OSG averages at least one presentation per week, reaching approximately fifty people. Ms. Godlewski was pleased to announce that 93% of OSG staff is certified as a Registered Guardian.

Krista Butler, Guardianship Managing Administrator for the Northern Regions, from the West Suburban Regional Office, presented a “Person” Case Study. Each guardianship representative has a caseload of approximately 125. Many of the person cases are community based cases or individuals who reside in the community so OSG staff does not have access to professional staff.

Louis Williams, a Guardianship Estate Representative from the Chicago General Office presented an “Estate” Case Study. Through the efforts of Mr. Williams, it was discovered that a gentleman indeed owned property that could be sold, allowing him to live in a healthier environment.

Laura Sakas, OSG Managing Attorney for the Northern Regions, from the Chicago General Office, presented a DNR-HCSA Case Study.

Sandy Hayes, Guardianship Intake Supervisor from the West Suburban Regional Office compared the 1800 intakes in 1994 to the 6,000 that were received in the year 2000. Most of the intake calls develop into new cases for the Office of State Guardian. The intake staff can’t handle the service requests directly, but try to link the individual with the appropriate agency. Intake also provides educational information for families.

WRAP-UP

John Wank, General Counsel and Deputy Director for Programs, further explained to the new Commissioners that IGAC is in the “business of dealing with human beings”. The caseload of 53 person and estate representatives, making a minimum of four (4) visits a year to 5,800 wards, equates to approximately 23,000 visits a year. IGAC wards are now in 1600 locations across the state. This demonstrates the magnitude of staff commitment to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

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CLOSING COMMENTS

Commissioner Perkins commented she hoped all benefited from the orientation and thanked everyone for their input and work.

CLOSING

The next stated Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2002 at the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Conference Room in Springfield.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Wade**, seconded and carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.