

Adult Inpatient Committee Minutes
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council
December 19, 2018

The Adult Inpatient Committee met on December 19, 2018. We discussed how we continue to be appalled at the repeated abuse of clients sent to psychiatric hospitals. Our committee has reported on atrocities at known psychiatric facilities such as Hartgrove, Riveredge, and Streamwood. The problem of finding sufficient housing for clients deemed ready for discharge exacerbates the problem. Clients are not routinely cared for in safe environments at a cost to taxpayers of significant figures. It is not a common practice for clients needing services to be treated in a therapeutic (which means safe) environment for the duration of their stay in addition to finding quality housing when they are released.

The hospital we discussed in this meeting is Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital. The Chicago Tribune reported on this hospital because it is under state and federal investigation because of reports of alleged sexual assaults and physical abuse of minors by hospital staff and other children. Some of the children who allege abuse had been cleared for discharge earlier, some by months, but DCFS had not found a place for them to be sent to in the community. Housing these children in a psychiatric hospital is a gross violation of the Illinois Mental Health Code which clearly states that clients be treated in the least restrictive environment. We are referring this matter to the IMHPAC Child and Adolescent Committee for immediate attention.