

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Catawba Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** July 17, 2013    **TIME:** 3:00 pm    **PLACE:** Building 24 Lobby

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dianna Parrish, Chairperson; David Lofgren; Dianna Parrish; Shannon Patsel; JoAnn Patterson; Kaisha Williams.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cynthia Hall; Millie Rhodes; Valarie Robinson

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Dwayne Lynch, Human Rights Advocate

**PROVIDERS PRESENT:** Leigh Frazier, LewisGale Center for Behavioral Health – Salem  
Mark Lancet, Director, LewisGale Senior Transitions - Alleghany  
Walton Mitchell, III, Facility Director – Catawba Hospital  
Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health, Carilion Clinic

**GUESTS:** None

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

1.    **Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order.
2.    **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of April 17, 2013 meetings were approved as presented.
3.    **Advocate’s Report (Dwayne Lynch)**

Dwayne Lynch provided the following report to the Committee:

- a. All private providers should be “live” on the new CHRIS system as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, due to differences in computer operating systems, some providers are experiencing issues entering complaints. Mr. Lynch asked the providers present to contact him via email if they have any problems.
- b. Mr. Lynch introduced and welcomed two (2) new members to the LHRC – Shannon Patsel and Kaisha Williams.

**Review Date:** No Further Review

**4. Next Friend Authorized Representative Request**

Dianna Parrish, Chair moved that the LHRC go into closed session pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711.A. (4) and (15) for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of medical and mental records, namely to conduct a review of and interview with a proposed Next Friend Authorized Representative. The Chair called for a 2<sup>nd</sup>; all members signified by saying “Yes.”

The Committee went into closed session.

A motion was made and seconded to reconvene the LHRC in public session. The Chair asked each member to certify that to the best of their knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were heard, discussed or considered. All members replied “I so certify.”

A motion was made and seconded to accept the individual interviewed as the Next Friend Authorized Representative. The motion passed unanimously.

The LHRC reminded the provider that this appointment should be reviewed as the individual’s condition warrants or after a period of six (6) months, whichever comes first.

**Review Date: January 2014**

**5. Catawba Hospital Reports (Walton Mitchell, III):**

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Overall, there was an increase in admissions and discharges this quarter compared to the previous quarter; Catawba is currently operating at about 95% capacity. Median length of stay was in the normal range for the adult units; however, a few longer-stay geriatric patients were discharged during the quarter, which accounted for the higher number on those units. There were a total of three (3) readmissions within 30 days for the quarter on the adult units and none (0) on the geriatric units.
- b. Restraint Usage: Behavioral restraint hours and incidents increased during the quarter; however, many of these episodes were very brief (less than a minute) and were necessary to protect the patient and others. There were also a few admissions that required some periods of restraint – including a transfer from another state hospital who had had 60 admissions prior to coming to Catawba. Protective restraints usage (excluding enclosure beds) remained consistent with previous quarters; enclosure bed usage continues to remain low with 3 patients utilizing these for the quarter. Least restrictive measures are pursued prior to using the enclosure beds, and the level of treatment is reviewed weekly by physical therapy and the physician to see if the patient’s falls risk has decreased. Patients utilizing enclosure beds have continuous supportive observation.
- c. Complaints / Allegations: There were a total of twelve (12) complaints handled through the informal process and five (5) handled through the formal process during the quarter. All complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved. Four (4) investigations were concluded as unsubstantiated for neglect or abuse.

d. Other Business:

- Policy CHPP 01.94, Patient Rights & Restrictions of Freedom – Mr. Mitchell reviewed the proposed changes to the policy and noted that the revisions came about as a result of a specific patient request, and are consistent with how the facility manages these types of materials. The committee questioned the need to expand the section to include streaming videos on the Internet, cell phones, hand-held devices, etc. Mr. Mitchell noted that patients do not have access to these devices while at the hospital.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the report as presented.

**Review Date: No Further Review**

6. **Lewis-Gale Center for Behavioral Health Reports (Leigh Frazier):**

- a. Admission & Discharges: Monthly admissions and discharges averaged 160 and 161 respectively for the quarter. There were three (3) adolescent/child readmissions in the quarter; adult readmissions averaged five (5) per month. Ongoing efforts to decrease readmissions continue, with no trends or patterns identified.
- b. Restraint Usage: The number of restraint episodes and average number of minutes per episode on the child/adolescent and adult units decreased compared to the previous two (2) quarters.
- c. Complaints: There were thirteen (13) complaints addressed through the informal process during the quarter. All were resolved and no violations found.
- d. Other Business: Five (5) investigations were concluded as unsubstantiated for neglect or abuse.

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the report as presented.

**Review Date: No Further Review**

7. **Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Thomas):**

- a) Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges on the child/adolescent unit decreased significantly in June; this could be attributed to the beginning of summer recess from school. The adult units also showed a decrease in admissions/discharges in June. Readmissions within 15 and 30 days increased slightly in June. Ongoing efforts to decrease readmissions continue, with no trends or patterns identified.
- b) Restraint Usage: The number of restraint episodes on the child/adolescent units increased significantly in April due to acuity, then gradually decreased in May and June.

- c) Complaints: There were nine (9) complaints addressed through the informal process during the quarter. All were resolved and no violations found.
- d) Other Business: Two (2) investigations were concluded as unsubstantiated for neglect or abuse.

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the report as presented.

Per the Committee's request, Mala Thomas provided an updated on the episode of restraint on the adult unit reported in the April 2013 LHRC meeting. Mr. Lynch noted that he did not see any concerns regarding the duration of time of the restraint with explanation provided by Carilion. Following discussion, the Committee accepted the clarification of this restraint as presented.

**Review Date:** No Further Review

**8. Alleghany Regional Geriatric Behavioral Health (Mark Lancet):**

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Admissions and discharges averaged 31 for the quarter; there were two (2) readmissions in this quarter compared to six (6) in the previous quarter.
- b. Restraint Usage: No seclusions/restraints were reported for the quarter.
- c. Complaints: There was one (1) complaint received during the quarter which was handled through the formal process. No further communication was received, therefore the complaint was closed.
- d. Other Business: None.

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the report as presented.

**Review Date:** No Further Review

**9. Other Business**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** October 16, 2013

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Dianna Parrish, Chairperson

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