

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Catawba Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2016 **TIME:** 3:00 pm **PLACE:** Building 24 Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Patsel, Chairperson; Lisa Hoyt; Valarie Robinson; Kaisha Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Lofgren; JoAnn Patterson

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Dwayne Lynch, Human Rights Advocate

CARILION STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Dishner, Unit Director, Department of Psychiatry
Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health

CATAWBA STAFF PRESENT: Walton Mitchell, Facility Director

LEWIS GALE STAFF PRESENT: Leigh Frazier, Clinical Services Director, Center for Behavioral Health
Angelo Pananas, Program Director, LG Alleghany Senior Transitions
Amy Clark, Interim Nurse Manager, LG Alleghany Senior Transitions

GUESTS: Will Childers, Committee Member Applicant

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order.

2. **Review of Agenda & Minutes** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meetings as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Advocate’s Report**
Dwayne Lynch reported on the following:
 - a. The department has hired a new Regional Human Rights Advocate – Jennifer Kovack. Ms. Kovack is very familiar with our region as she has worked with the department’s Intellectual Disabilities Services in Regional III and also at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute.
 - b. Mr. Lynch provided an update on the upcoming changes to the Local Human Rights Committees going forward. The changes have gone through public comment; there was nothing of substance that would cause the regulations to be re-reviewed. The department is hoping to have the new regulations go into effect by the end of 2016. Some of the proposed changes include:

- Significant changes to the current complaint process that will require training and revisions to provider policies.
- The number of local human rights committees would be reduced from 78 to about 25, and would be centered around the state facilities in the regions. As the number of regions have been reduced from six (6) to five (5) to be more in-line with other agencies, our region (Region III) has expanded south and east of the Roanoke area. This expansion places four (4) state facilities within the newly defined Region III which will, in turn, result in four (4) local human rights committees.
- There would no longer be provider affiliations with local human rights committees. Providers would no longer be required to attend the meetings unless they have agenda items or submit complaint/abuse/restraint reports.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

- c. Mr. Lynch also noted that he continues to serve as Human Rights Advocate at Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute on an interim basis.

Review Date: No Further Review

4. Carilion Behavioral Health (Lisa Dishner)

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges on the child/adolescent units have been consistent over the past several months. Admissions on the 4th floor and 5th floors have been consistent during the quarter, but are now started to trend upward. Median lengths of stay for all three (3) units have been consistent. The percentage of readmissions within 15 days and 30 days continues to remain low since July 2015.
- b. Restraint Usage: The 15 episodes of restraint on the adult units in February were attributed to four (4) patients. No trends or patterns were identified.
- c. Complaints/Allegations:
There were ten (10) complaints during the quarter. All were resolved and no violations were found.
- d. Other Business: None.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Date: No Further Review

5. Catawba Hospital (Walton Mitchell)

- a. Admissions and Discharges: The number of adult and geriatric admissions increased during the quarter. Median lengths of stay has been consistent; readmissions on the adult units included individuals with primary substance abuse issues who would not have come to Catawba in the past but do as a result of the new ECO/TDO laws. All of the readmissions are tracked in the hospital's Utilization Review Committee.
- b. Restraint Usage: Behavioral restraint hours and incidents increased in February due to one (1) patient who has since been stabilized and discharged. Protective restraints (excluding enclosure beds) remained consistent with the previous quarter; an enclosure bed was used during the quarter for one patient with a movement disorder.
- c. Complaints / Allegations:
 - There were no (0) complaints during the quarter
 - There was one (1) allegation of abuse/neglect during the quarter. The allegation was investigated and found to be unsubstantiated.
- d. Other Business: Mr. Mitchell provided information to the Committee regarding changes to the Department's forensic admission process following the death of an individual in jail who was awaiting transfer to Eastern State Hospital. State hospitals are now required to notify/confirm to the courts when an order for treatment has been received and to admit that individual within seven (7) days of the order. Mr. Mitchell also reviewed the department's Cross Systems Mapping Program that focuses on the mental health system, the courts and the jails working together to get individuals the treatment they need, including when they enter and leave jail. He noted that Blue Ridge Behavioral Health has developed systems to track individuals while they are in jail and at time of discharge.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Date: No Further Review

6. LewisGale Behavioral Health (Leigh Frazier)

- a. Admission & Discharges: Adult admissions increased during the quarter; adolescent admissions were consistent with previous quarters. The hospital has worked very hard and made significant progress in reducing the number of readmissions within 15 days. There was a significant decrease in the number of admissions during the 1st quarter 2016 compared to the 1st quarter of 2015 - 567 vs. 772.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were 18 restraint events in January 2016. Nine (9) of these events were from one (1) adolescent female; the remaining nine (9) were attributed to two (2) patients with judicial authorization who required physical holds to administer medications.

- c. Complaints/Allegations:
- There were three (3) informal complaints; all were resolved and no violations found.
 - There were three (3) allegations of abuse during the quarter that were investigated; one (1) of the allegations was substantiated.
- d. Other Business: None.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Date: No Further Review

7. LewisGale Alleghany Senior Transitions (Angelo Pananas)

- a. Admissions and Discharges: The number of admissions trended upward during the quarter. There was one (1) readmission after 15 days in January and March – the hospital continues to track these readmits closely.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were five (5) physical holds and four (4) mechanical restraints utilized during the quarter; these incidents were attributed to just a few patients.
- c. Complaints/Allegations:
- There was one (1) formal complaint during the quarter.
 - There were four (4) allegations of neglect (non-peer to peer) that were investigated during the quarter. Three (3) were found to be substantiated and have resulted in changes in the hospital process around medication administration; the remaining allegation was unsubstantiated.
- d. Other Business: None.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Date: No Further Review

9. New Business

a. Closed Session – New Member Applicant

An application was received for membership consideration. The Committee went into closed session to interview this applicant.

A motion was made and passed to go into Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711.A. (4) and (15), for the protection of privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and to conduct an interview with one (1) applicant for Local Human Rights Committee Membership.

Upon reconvening in public session, the Local Human Rights Committee unanimously certified that only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Closed session were discussed in the Closed session.

The LHRC endorsed the candidate, Will Childress, for membership and directed Dwayne Lynch to forward the application to the State Committee for its consideration for immediate appointment.

Review Date: *No Further Review*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 27, 2016.

Shannon Patsel, Chairperson

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