

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: February 21, 2007

MEETING TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reba Keen, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson; Louise Garman; Carolyn Heldreth; Courtney Hewitt; Ken Rush

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Martin Ham; Millie Rhodes; Valarie Robinson

STAFF PRESENT: Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Diane Jones, Chief Nurse Executive; Chip Blasiolo, MS LPC, Psychology Practitioner; Karen Calfee, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support)

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Sonia Smith, MSW

GUESTS: None

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the last meeting of December 20, 2006, were approved as previously distributed.

Review Date: No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** The behavioral restraint hours and incidents decreased for the months of December 2006 and January 2007, compared to the last two reporting months. The majority of these incidents were for small increments of time, utilizing ambulatory restraints. The decrease is contributed to the nursing staff's ability to assess antecedent behavior during the early stages of aggressive episodes and proactively treat the patient with less intrusive measures such as medication, quiet time and redirection. Protective restraints also decreased during this reporting period compared to the last period. Treatment teams proactively discussing restraint orders in morning reports, occupational and physical therapy evaluations focusing on positioning, the stabilization of medications, and the resolution of medical concerns were all contributing factors to the decrease.

Review Date: No further review

3. **Informal Complaints:** Mr. Mitchell reviewed the informal complaints for December 2006 and January 2007. There were a total of five (5) complaints: two (2) miscellaneous; and one (1) each for participation in treatment/decision-making, treatment with dignity and money concerns. All complaints were resolved within the five day period at the informal level.

Review Date: No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** Adult admissions and discharges remained stable for December 2006 and January 2007, with an equal number of admissions and discharges. Geriatric admissions decreased in January compared to December, due to a continuously full census on geriatric units. There was one (1) readmission within 30 days in December. Average lengths of stay increased somewhat for both adult and geriatric units due to the discharge of several long-term patients.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the information on the mean and median length of stay on Unit 2 is no longer relevant due to the recent decision to reconfigure the adult units. Unit 2 is now split between sexes (male patients on one side; female patients on the another side) due to increased issues with intrusiveness by both male and female patients. Both sides of the unit have access to the middle recreation areas on alternating schedules. Mr. Mitchell reported a preliminary decrease in aggressive episodes and complaints about opposite gender intrusiveness, with female patients expressing that they have more privacy. Unit 4 has also been separated by gender, with equal use of common areas. The gender-specific unit configurations are still being developed for staffing and potential permanence. Mr. Mitchell will provide an update at the next meeting regarding the unit divisions.

Review Date: April 18, 2007

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Mitchell discussed a memorandum from the DMHMRSAS Commissioner, regarding the mandate that all facilities will be smoke-free for patients and staff by October 10, 2007. Mr. Mitchell advised the facility will be developing transition plans and will provide supportive measures for patients and staff such as smoking cessation classes and options to alleviate and manage withdrawal symptoms.

Review of Restrictive Plan #1: As the Psychology Practitioner managing the behavioral plan of the patient involved in Restrictive Plan #1, Mr. Blasiolo provided a review of the patient's progress from December 18, 2006 to February 20, 2007. The patient's mood continues to be good, with denial of any depressive symptoms, and the patient remains cooperative with prompts for activities of daily living. The patient continues to have Green level privileges and has begun working in the Work Skills Group, earning a small wage. The Committee approved the plan's continuation for two months, with review again at the next meeting.

Review Date: April 18, 2007

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Smith reported there were no formal complaints for the period of December 2006 to January 2007. Training for committee members is tentatively scheduled for early September 2007, in either Richmond or Charlottesville, based on the readiness of the new human rights regulations.

Review Date: No further review

7. **Membership Report:** Two committee member vacancies without eligibility for extension will occur in June 2007: Dr. Martin Ham, currently serving as vice chairperson, and Louise Garman. Nominations for vice chairperson will be received at the next meeting. An invitation for reappointment was extended to the two members (Valarie Robinson and Carolyn Heldreth) whose first terms expire in June 2007, and was approved by the Committee.

Review Date: April 18, 2007

8. **Other Business:** The Committee agreed on the following meeting dates for 2007:

April 18, 2007
June 13, 2007
August 15, 2007
October 17, 2007
December 19, 2007

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2007, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

Reba Keene, Chairperson