

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** April 18, 2007                      **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Reba Keen, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson; Louise Garman; Carolyn Heldreth; Valarie Robinson; Ken Rush; Millie Rhodes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Martin Ham; Courtney Hewitt

**STAFF PRESENT:** Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Diane Jones, Chief Nurse Executive; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer; Chip Blasiole, Psychologist; Karen Calfee, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support)

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Sonia Smith, MSW

**GUESTS:** Bo Miller and Will Childers (prospective members); Dr. R. Michael Marsh (State Human Rights Committee Chair)

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED**

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of February 21, 2007 were approved as previously distributed.

**Review Date:** No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** The number of behavioral restraint episodes decreased for February-March 2007 compared to December 2006-January 2007. The hours for this reporting period increased compared to the last period, primarily due to an increase in aggressive episodes towards staff. Ms. Jones emphasized the continuous training provided to staff on managing patient aggression, and that each episode is debriefed to review antecedent behaviors and assure the episode was handled in the best manner. Protective restraints decreased again this reporting period compared to the last.

**Review Date:** No further review

3. **Informal Complaints:** Mr. Obenshain reviewed the informal complaints for February and March 2007. There were a total of six (6) complaints received: two (2) each for participation in treatment/decision-making, discharge and miscellaneous. All complaints were resolved within the five day period at the informal level.

**Review Date:** No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** Adult and geriatric admissions continue to remain high for February and March 2007. Discharges are near or equal to the number of admissions for each month. There was one readmission in less than 30 days for the period. The average and median lengths of stay for both adults and geriatrics decreased in February 2007 compared to March 2007. Ms. Smith related that the DMHMRSAS is beginning to plan for the increase in geriatric needs and distributed a Geriatric Feedback Form to each Committee member for their input on the development of a master plan for geriatric services.

Mr. Mitchell provided an update as requested at the last meeting regarding the gender division of Units 2 and 4. The move of all adult male patients to Unit 2 and all female adult patients to Unit 4 will be completed shortly. The trial period of gender separation as discussed at the last meeting went very well with no increase in complaints from patients. Staffing on these units will be assessed and adjusted as necessary. Some staff are also volunteering to work with one specific gender.

Mr. Mitchell presented the proposed changes to the Unit Rules for 2 and 4, consisting of an expansion of the restricted items for patients on Red or Blue Levels. The gender separation of units does not include any more restrictiveness than previously established. After review, the revised unit rules were accepted by the Committee, with final approval to be obtained at the next meeting.

**Review Date:** June 13, 2007

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Mitchell advised the facility is beginning plans to accommodate the smoke-free mandate for staff and patients effective October 2007. As previously discussed, the facility will be providing supportive measures for smoking cessation to both staff and patients in advance of October.

**Review of Restrictive Plan #1:** Mr. Blasiolo (Psychology Practitioner) provided a review of the patient's progress from February 20 to April 18, 2007. The patient has experienced an increase in aggressive episodes, three of which required utilizing the behavioral code team and use of restraints after two episodes, resulting in the loss of Green Level. As of April 13<sup>th</sup>, the patient has regained a Green Level, and the treatment team continues to work with the patient on managing anger and aggression and helping to obtain realistic goals towards discharge. The Committee approved the plan's continuation for two months, with review again at the next meeting.

**Review Date:** June 13, 2007

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Smith reported on six (6) formal complaints from February 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007. Five (5) complaints have been resolved at the Facility Director level; one (1) complaint is pending.

Ms. Smith advised the State Board has reviewed minor revisions to the Human Rights Regulations and should take action on them at their May meeting, with training to follow in mid-Summer. Committee members received a copy of *Human Writes*, and were advised the publication is also available on the DMHMRSAS website. Contributing articles are welcomed and encouraged.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Membership Report:** Two prospective Committee members were introduced: Mr. Bo Miller, with Innovative Community Solutions; and, Mr. Will Childers, with Hopetree Family Services (formerly known as Virginia Baptist Children's Home). After review of their applications, the Committee voted to accept Messrs. Miller and Childers for membership and their applications will be forwarded to the State Human Rights Committee, with membership to be effective July 1, 2007.

Ms. Keene opened the meeting to nominations for Vice Chairperson. Carolyn Heldreth was unanimously elected as Vice Chair, effective July 1, 2007.

**Review Date:** No further review

8. **Other Business:** None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2007, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

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Reba Keene, Chairperson

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