

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** August 15, 2007      **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 Conference Room

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ken Rush; Courtney Hewitt; Will Childers, Bo Miller

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jack L. Wood, Facility Director/CEO; Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer; Valerie Epperley, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support)

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

**GUESTS:** Vicky Fisher, Ph.D., Acting Chief Nurse Executive

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

1. Ms. Keen acknowledged the passing of Dr. Marsh and the legacy that he left behind.
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of June 13, 2007 were approved as previously distributed.

**Review Date:** No further review

3. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** Behavioral restraint hours decreased in June and July 2007 comparisons by 12%, with number of incidents decreasing by 75%. For behavioral restraint hours (enclosure bed only), the change in July and July was a decrease of 4%, with a 50% decrease in number of patients. There was a 47% increase in protective restraint hours (excluding enclosure bed) and an increase of 12% for number of patients.

**Review Date:** No further review

4. **Informal Complaints:** There were a total of four (4) informal complaints for June and July 2007. Three (3) complaints were from short-term Unit 2 and one (1) from Unit 4. One (1) was for miscellaneous, two (2) were for treatment with dignity, and one was for participation and treatment. All complaints were resolved within the five day required timeframe.

**Review Date:** No further review

5. **Director's Liaison Report:** The long-term stay of an NGRI patient caused the June Adult median to increase, even though both Adult and Geriatric admissions were down from the previous two-month period. The geriatric median for both June and July 2007 was within the normal range. There was one readmission in June, with two in July.

Mr. Wood commented about the current issue surrounding capacity, whereby when Catawba is full, we buy beds from Carilion and Lewis-Gale at a substantial cost increase. There is a team in place that meets daily to make decisions regarding the expediency of patients getting to the correct facility to get the proper services needed, rather than sending everyone to Catawba.

Motion was made and seconded for approval of changes in the adult rules for Units 2 and 4 and was approved by a show of hands.

ECT Review: We had a review at the end of April whereby the attending physician determined that he lacked capacity to give informed consent. A second opinion was obtained and was in concurrence. The legal guardian was in agreement. Approval was given for legal consent on April 27.

**Review Date:** No further review

6. **Director's Report:** Mr. Wood referred to the recent *Roanoke Times* newspaper article, which was very positive for Catawba Hospital. Our main concern is revenue shortfalls, as a ten percent reduction is being instituted in other departments. The Secretary of Health and Human Services visited the hospital several weeks ago and was impressed by what she saw. She said if the governor wanted to tour a mental health facility that she would choose this one. June 2008 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Catawba Hospital, which would be a good venue for a visit by the Governor. There seems to be continual construction, with the installation of central air conditioning in the Administration Building, steam lines for hot and cold water, and a generator to provide backup for both heating and air. Our ability to recruit remains high; usually, there are no double digits for vacant nursing staff. Effective October 10, there will be no smoking on hospital grounds by both staff and patients.

**Review Date:** No further review

In order to protect the privacy of individuals and their records, the Committee entered into closed session to review three allegations of abuse and/or neglect during June and July 2007. Upon returning to open session, each member certified that only the three allegations were reviewed.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Advocate's Report:** There were no formal complaints for the last two-month period. She advised members of a 2007 Human Rights Seminar in Richmond on September 14, 2007. Information on this seminar is outlined in the State Human Rights Committee Newsletter. It was noted that Catawba Hospital will pre-pay registration and hotel and reimburse meals for members attending this seminar.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Membership Report:** Ms. Smith announced the committee is at full membership.

**Review Date:** No further review

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2007, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

---

Reba Keene, Chairperson

ve

DRAFT