

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2008 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson; Will Childers; Bo Miller; Millie Rhodes; Valerie Robinson; Rena Ferguson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Adrien Monti, Human Rights Advocate

CH STAFF PRESENT: Jack Wood, Director; Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Vicky Fisher, Chief Nurse Executive; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer

LGH STAFF PRESENT: Leigh Frazier, Clinical Services Director, Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Mala Kesler, Director of Carilion Behavioral Health

GUESTS: JoAnn Patterson; Letitia Malone

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 8, 2008 and November 25, 2008 meeting were approved.

Review Date: No further review

2. **Advocate's Report (Adrien Monti):**
 - a. Membership Report – Recent changes to the Office of Human Rights include significant budget reductions and two advocates will be retiring. The two positions will not be immediately filled, so there may be pending changes and shifts in responsibilities. A new Local Human Rights Committee is being formed in the Roanoke area. Currently, the Blue Ridge Regional HRC has 41 affiliates. Six (6) of these affiliates have volunteered to work to recruit members who will form a new committee.
 - b. Complaints Addressed through the Formal Process – Six (6) complaints were addressed through the formal complaint process at Catawba Hospital during the months of October and December 2008; none from Lewis-Gale or Carilion. One of the complaints is still being addressed; one was appealed and resolved; and, the others were resolved at this level.
 - c. State Human Rights Committee – The variance for Carilion Behavioral Health was granted. These minutes are available for review.

Review Date: No further review

3. Catawba Hospital Reports:

- a. Behavioral and Protective Restraints (Vicky Fisher) – Behavioral restraint hours were reported for September, October and November 2008 for a combined total of 9 episodes, which is a significant decrease from the previous month. Staff has been diligently refining their de-escalation skills and mitigating Codes without having them progress to restraint usage. Protective restraint usage has also decreased, and in November, there was no use of enclosure beds at all.
- b. Complaints Addressed through the Informal Process (Don Obenshain) – There were a total of 12 complaints addressed through the informal complaint process for the months of October and November 2008, all from the adult units and none from the geriatric population. All complaints were resolved within 5 days, except one treatment with dignity complaint revolving around telephone privileges, and it has now been resolved, as well.
- c. Director's Liaison's Report (Walton Mitchell) – Adult admissions were consistent with previous months; however, geriatric admissions have declined sharply. This appears to be the case, not just at Catawba Hospital, but in the community, as well. The length of stay was in the average range for both populations.
- d. Director's Report (Jack Wood) – The Governor plans to announce the new budget on December 17, 2008. At this point, there is not a lot of information to share, but currently there are no plans for any major reductions at Catawba Hospital.

Review Date: No further review

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

- a. Admission & Discharges: Census and admissions are down and the facility is using this as an opportunity to make repairs that are not easily completed when patients are occupying the area.
- b. Restraint Usage (Mechanical): There were 2 incidents where mechanical restraints were used in October and 2 in November 2008. All 4 patients were adults and the mechanical restraint was used as a last resort for behavioral issues.
- c. Complaints: There were 10 complaints addressed through the informal process for the months of October and November 2008. All were resolved to the satisfaction of the individual, although one individual's daughter felt that discharge had been premature.
- d. Abuse/Neglect/Serious Injury/Death: No allegations of abuse or neglect reported. Several individuals had to be sent to the emergency department for treatment of illnesses and were either treated and returned to behavioral health or admitted medically and then discharged.
- e. Other Business (Review of Policies related to Restraint & Seclusion): A thorough explanation of the Lewis-Gale governing structure and policies reviewed was given. The Committee had no further questions.

Review Date: No further review

5. Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Kesler):

- a. Admission & Discharges: Actual figures were not available, however it was reported admissions had dropped in November substantially.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were 11 restraint episodes, all involving children and self-harm.
- c. Complaints: No complaints filed.
- d. Other Business: The area for which the variance had been granted was opened on November 11, 2008. Census has been steady at 5 to 6 patients and the operation is running smoothly.

Staff has provided very positive feedback and there have been no complaints from patients. Construction is going well and on schedule. Completion date is set for February 2009.

Review Date: February 11, 2009

Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711. A. (4) and (15). (Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.), Ms. Heldreth moved that the LHRC go into closed session for the purpose of protecting the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of a completed investigation of an allegation of abuse.

Upon re-entering public session, Ms. Heldreth moved that each member certify that to the best of his or her knowledge that only matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was seconded and each member so certified.

6. Other Business: Two prospective members were interviewed by the Committee, Ms. JoAnn Patterson and Ms. Letitia Malone. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend both candidates to the State Human Rights Committee for appointment to the Catawba Local Human Rights Committee.

7. Next Meeting: February 11, 2009

Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson

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