

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** June 10, 2009                      **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 - Lobby

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson, Vice Chairperson; Will Childers; Millie Rhodes; Bo Miller; JoAnn Patterson; Letitia Malone; Dianna Parrish

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Valarie Robinson

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Adrien Monti, Human Rights Advocate

**CH STAFF PRESENT:** Jack Wood, Director; 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:** Judie Snipes, Privacy Officer; Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health

**GUESTS:** Norma Stone

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting were approved with one revision.

**Review Date:** No further review
3. **Advocate's Report (Adrien Monti):** Guest, Norma Stone, was welcomed and introduced as a prospective new member. Adrien announced that each facility has submitted their information electronically and will be presenting on the screen rather than on paper. This will not only save time and money, but be more efficient and environmentally friendly. Members will be asked to provide feedback regarding this change.

**Review Date:** No further review
4. **Catawba Hospital Reports (Jack Wood):**
  - a. **Admissions and Discharges:** – Geriatric admissions have been down slightly. The adult male population has consistently stayed at or near capacity. The median length of stay was affected by one long-term geriatric patient who was discharged during May.

- b. Restraint Usage: – The behavioral restraint hours for April and May were up slightly, but it was noted Catawba has begun capturing any type of manual hold, even if it is just a few seconds and/or for medication administration. Enclosure beds were implemented for 5 individuals who posed a significant falls risk and other less restrictive measures had failed.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: – There were a total of 8 complaints handled through the informal process, many from the same individual. The majority of complaints were in the Dignity category. There was also one complaint handled through the formal process. All complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved.
- d. Facility Update: – There continues to be a high demand for adult male beds in the area. Statewide budget reductions persist and an additional 3% will be cut from the general fund. The new greenhouse is about 90% complete. This capitol project is one that not only supports patient rehabilitation and vocation, but generates revenue to pay for itself.

**Review Date:** No further review

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

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges remain at a consistent rate. The facility continues struggle to decrease readmissions within 15 days. All readmissions are reviewed in search of common trend or areas that need improvement. There has been success with the increased focus on family meetings; however, as each discovered trend is addressed, the problem of rapid readmission has persisted. Five (5) individuals who have historically had frequent readmissions are currently being tracked in hope of finding a way to increase their level of stability in the community and find ways to break the cycle of rapid movement from one facility to the other.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were 3 behavioral restraint events in April involving 2 adult female patients and no restraint usage in May.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 7 complaints addressed through the informal process for the months of April and May 2009. All were resolved to the satisfaction of the individual or family. Several illness/injuries were reported; there were no deaths.
- d. Facility Update: A number of patients have been transferred to Behavioral Health who have not been determined to be medically stable. The facility is working with the ER physicians to improve the pre-screening process.

**Review Date:** No further review

**6. Carilion Behavioral Health (Judie Snipes/Mala Thomas):**

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges decreased from March on the adolescent and adult intensive treatment unit (ITU), but had increased on the regular adult unit. It was noted the “discharges” from the ITU usually indicate a movement to a step-down unit.
- b. Restraint Usage: Restraints increased, particularly in the adult population. There were 14 episodes involving 3 patients; one patient was involved in 11 of these due to self-harm behaviors. In addition, 437 hours of 1:1 were used.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 3 complaints handled through the formal process and 5 complaints handled through the informal process for the months of April and May 2009, the majority being in the Dignity category. Two serious incidents were reported in April; a Code Secure and a Rapid Response. The Code Secure involved a patient subdued by facility guards using a pepper-foam spray. The Rapid Response occurred in response to a reaction to medication from which the patient fully recovered.

- d. Facility Update/Other Business: Regional stabilization between shared providers appears to be helping clients, although it is too early to assess the total impact.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Other Business:**

- a. Allegations of abuse or neglect, along with other patient specific information were discussed in closed session: *Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711. A. (4) and (15). (Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.), Vice-Chairperson Rena Ferguson 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 medical records.*

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.

8. **Next Meeting:** August 12, 2009.

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Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson

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