

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** October 14, 2009                      **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 - Lobby

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** JoAnn Patterson; Valarie Robinson

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Nan Neese, Regional Advocate

**CH STAFF PRESENT:** Jack Wood, Director; 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:** None

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

**Review Date:** No further review

**3. Advocate's Report (Nan Neese):** Deborah Jones from the Southwest Region resigned her position as Human Rights Advocate. Therefore, the Office of Human Rights is in the process of reorganizing yet again. B. J. McKnight from the training center in Hillsville and Nan Neese are covering this portion of the state and are accessible via cell phone or email.

**Review Date:** No further review

**4. Catawba Hospital Reports:**

- a. Admissions and Discharges (Jack Wood): – Admissions and discharges dropped slightly in August, but rose for the adult population in September. Male adult beds continue to be scarce. When appropriate, some adult males are being served on the geriatric ward to help alleviate the shortage. Readmissions within 30 days remain low and are reviewed monthly by the Utilization Review Committee.
- b. Restraint Usage (Jack Wood): – Behavioral restraints dropped significantly in August, but stabilized again in September, increasing towards the end of the month with one very difficult admission that will carry over and drastically affect the numbers reported at the next meeting. Currently, only one enclosure bed is in use at the facility and use of other protective restraints has decreased. As always, safety of the patients and staff is the primary concern whenever behavioral or protective restraints are used.

- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths (Don Obenshain): – There were a total of 4 complaints handled through the informal process and all complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved. No formal complaints were filed during August and September.
- d. Facility Update (Jack Wood): – Catawba Hospital expects at least 8 layoffs due to the budget reduction and these will be facilitated through the retirement process. This comes on top of 66 positions that already remain vacant. The Governor has directed one-million dollars be cut from direct service without closing any beds. Last month Catawba Hospital hosted the State Human Rights Committee meeting and survived their Joint Commission triennial inspection. Both events were extremely successful and the hospital staff should be commended on their efforts. Staff will also be participating in the upcoming Alzheimer's Walk.

**Review Date:** No further review

**5. Carilion Behavioral Health (Judie Snipes/Mala Thomas):** *Reports are being given for June through September, as a representative from the facility was unavailable to attend the August meeting.*

- a. Admission & Discharges: Adolescent admissions and discharges dropped during the summer months, but rose significantly in September, which is typical of this population. The month of August showed a slight increase, but overall admissions and discharges remain steady on both adult wards. The average length of stay is 5 days.
- b. Restraint Usage: Overall restraint use was down showing a total 6 adolescent episodes and 6 adult episodes for the past four months; however September showed an increase in average minutes per episode.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: For the months of June through September 2009, there were 4 complaints handled through the formal process, 3 of which were resolved and one deemed invalid; and, 12 complaints were handled through the informal process, all resolved. There were no serious injuries reported, 4 instances of medical treatment required, and one Restriction of Rights due to contraband being brought into the facility by a family member. Carilion has implemented a locker system to help staff and families control the opportunity for contraband.
- d. Facility Update/Other Business: The Joint Commission inspected the facility, as well as the State Fire Marshal's Office who had a team there for approximately 30 days.

**Review Date:** No further review

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

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges remain steady. Readmissions continue to be audited as a focus for improvement; however after all other criteria have been addressed, it appears that the only common denominator is the patients themselves.
- b. Restraint Usage: There was one seclusion episode in August and one restraint episode in September.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 8 complaints addressed through the informal process for the months of August and September 2009. All were resolved to the satisfaction of the individual or family and no formal complaints were filed. Nine illnesses and two injuries were reported; there were no deaths.

**Review Date:** No further review

**7. Other Business:**

- a. Update to Case Number 2008-002 – deferred to December meeting.
- b. 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 pertaining to patient specific information.*

*Upon re-entering public session, Ms. Ferguson 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.*

**Review Date:** No further review

8. **Next Meeting:** December 9, 2009.

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Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson

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