

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: August 11, 2010 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rena Ferguson, Chairperson; Dianna Parrish; JoAnn Patterson; Will Childers; Bo Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT: Millie Rhodes; Letitia Malone

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Nan Neese, Regional Advocate

CH STAFF PRESENT: Jack Wood, Director

LGH STAFF PRESENT: Mollie Guzo, Clinical Services, Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Gary Kirby, Vice-President; Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health; Rachael Ruiz, RN, Clinical Team Leader

GUESTS: None

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 9, 2010 meeting were approved.

Review Date: No further review
3. **Advocate’s Report (Nan Neese):** A letter from the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) was distributed. The SHRC is currently conducting a review of the human rights system. A moratorium has been placed on the establishment of new local human rights committees due to difficulties of populating, managing and supporting the existing committees. The gratitude of the SHRC for the participation of each member of the local human rights committees was greatly expressed.

Review Date: No further review
4. **Catawba Hospital Reports (Jack Wood):**
 - a. **Admissions and Discharges:** Admissions increased for the geriatric population during June and July and for the adult population in July only. Correspondingly, readmissions were up slightly for the adult population in July, as well. Discharges remain stable.
 - b. **Restraint Usage:** The time patients spent in behavioral restraints remains down significantly. The majority of the behavioral restraints were physical not mechanical and for extremely short durations. The number of patients using protective restraints has increased slightly, as we continue to have a population quite susceptible to falls. As always, least restrictive measures are pursued prior to using the enclosure beds and the level of treatment is reviewed weekly by physical therapy and the physician to see if the patient’s falls risk has decreased.

- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were a total of 8 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 June or July.
- d. Facility Update: Mr. Wood announced that Catawba Hospital would absorb the catchment area for the geriatric patients currently being served at Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute. This should not affect the number of admissions and discharges significantly.

Review Date: No further review

5. Lewis-Gale Center for Behavioral Health Reports (Mollie Guzo):

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges remain stable. Readmissions within 15/30 days remain slightly higher than average.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were no behavioral restraint events in July and only one event in June.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 5 complaints handled through the informal process. All were resolved to the satisfaction of the individual or family and no formal complaints were filed. Six patients were sent to the Emergency Department; 4 patients were treated and returned to Behavioral Health and 2 were admitted medically. There were no serious injuries or deaths.
- d. Other Business: None.

Review Date: No further review

6. Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Thomas):

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges were down significantly on the adolescent unit during June, but began to come back up in July. This is very typical for the summer months when schools are not in session. Admissions and discharges on the adult intensive treatment unit had increased slightly. Readmissions were in the normal range.
- b. Restraint Usage: Only one child/adolescent patient required restraint in June and none in July. Two adult patients were restrained in June and 3 in July.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 6 complaints addressed through the informal process and 1 complaint addressed through the formal process. All were resolved to the satisfaction of the individual or family. There were 16 adult patients sent to the Emergency Department for treatment; 6 patients were admitted medically and 3 patients were returned to Behavioral Health. There were 2 minor injuries, no serious injuries or restriction of rights. There was one death within 21 days of discharge.
- d. Other Business: The Committee members present voted to adopt the changes as submitted to the Handbook and Restraint Policy, although a minor correction was necessary to an incomplete definition. The Unit Guidelines were exempt from approval.

Review Date: No further review

Other Business: The committee members present voted to defer the election of a Vice-Chairperson until the October meeting.

Review Date: October 13, 2010

7. Next Meeting: October 13, 2010.

Rena Ferguson, Chairperson