

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: February 9, 2011 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rena Ferguson, Chairperson; Dianna Parrish, Vice-Chair; Will Childers; Bo Miller
Millie Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: JoAnn Patterson; Letitia Malone

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Nan Neese, Regional Advocate

CH STAFF PRESENT: Walton Mitchell, MSW, Vice-President of Patient Care Services

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

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Gary Kirby, Vice-President; Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health

GUESTS: Valarie Robinson (Welcome & Introductions only)

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Valarie Robinson was presented with a plaque of appreciation for her years service as a former Committee Member and dedicated supporter of helping those with mental illness.
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting were approved. Please note, there was not a quorum present at the December meeting. Hospital reports were reviewed briefly but no business was conducted and therefore, there are no minutes for the December 2010 meeting.

Review Date: No further review

3. **Advocate's Report (Nan Neese):** Nan Neese introduced the State Human Rights guidance documents distributed to the Committee members and shared with the Providers. The Guidance included the implementation memo from the SHRC Chairperson outlining the changes, the model bylaws and the cooperative agreement. Nan emphasized that the SHRC's implementation timeframe is the end of June. Members were encouraged to read through the material closely and be prepared to discuss the bylaws and agreement in order to finalize these at the April meeting. June 30, 2011 is the deadline for all local committees to adopt the new bylaws.

Review Date: April 13, 2011

4. **Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Thomas/Gary Kirby):**
 - a. **Admission & Discharges:** Admissions and discharges on the adolescent unit dropped significantly during the month of December, but re-normalized in January. Admissions and discharges on both the adult and intensive unit remain stable. Readmissions rose slightly for this reporting period, which may be partially attributed to the recent cold weather.

- b. Restraint Usage: There was one child/adolescent patient restraint episode in December. In January, there were 5 child/adolescent episodes all involving 1 patient. There were no adult restraints in December and 2 episodes involving 2 different patients in January.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 11 complaints addressed through the informal process. All were closed without progressing further. Eleven patients were referred to the Emergency Department and one to Obstetrics for treatment. There was one minor injury where a patient bit himself, no serious injuries and one death occurred within 21 days after discharge.
- d. Other Business: None.

Review Date: No further review

5. Catawba Hospital Reports (Walton Mitchell):

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Admissions and discharges remained stable for December and January on both the adult and geriatric units. There were 5 adult readmissions in December and 2 in January. There were no geriatric readmissions within 30 days.
- b. Restraint Usage: Behavioral restraints decreased significantly during this reporting period. The length of time spent in protective restraints decreased in December and rose slightly in January. 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 6 complaints handled through the informal process and all complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved. There were no formal complaints during the reporting period.
- d. Facility Update: Recruitment to fill the Facility Director's position left vacant by Jack Wood is in the interview process and a decision is expected in the coming weeks.
- e. Other Business: None.

Review Date: No further review

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

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges were slightly higher in December than January. Readmissions within 15/30 days increased significantly in January. Upon investigation, it was discovered that one (1) patient accounted for five (5) of the readmissions in January. A review is conducted each time a patient is readmitted within 15 days and the facility continues to make this a focus for improvement. In this case, the majority of the patients admissions were voluntary and the facility believes the extreme cold temperatures and the fact the patient is homeless played a major role.
- b. Restraint Usage: There was 1 restraint event in December and 1 event in January.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 6 complaints handled through the informal process, all matters have been closed and no violations were found. Due to illness, 9 patients were sent to the Emergency Department; 6 patients were treated and returned to Behavioral Health and 3 were admitted medically. There were no serious patient injuries or deaths.
- d. Other Business: Solid ceilings are replacing the drop-ceilings in 10 rooms, along with other renovations, such as cone shaped door knobs, break-away shower curtain rods, etc. so that all the rooms will meet the same admission criteria.

Review Date: No further review

7. Other Business: None.

8. Next Meeting: April 13, 2011.

Rena Ferguson, Chairperson