



VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS LHRC
Draft Minutes
September 30, 2014

ATTENDANCE

Committee:

Present: Mark Fendig, Chair; Rachel Jones; Elvera McLees; Denton Staley;
and Willie McFarlane

Absent: Beverly Derian and Jo Ann Johns

Others Present:

Cynthia McClaskey, PhD, Facility Director; Julie Stoots, RN; Chris Carusi, Ph.D.;
Mallory Jessee, CSW; Merle Obregon, Staff Development and Training Director;
Nan Neese, Regional Human Rights Advocate and Patricia Evans, CAP,
Administrative Assistant.

Discussion of SWVMHI ERC (Emergency Restraint Chair) Pilot

At the request of the LHRC Committee, members met at the Bagley Building for a tour.

Mark Fendig, Chairman, called to order the special meeting of the Virginia Highlands LHRC in the Learning Center's Dogwood Room. Additional copies of the *Protocol for Using the ERC* and the *Assessment Tool After Using the ERC* were distributed. Julie Stoots gave an overview of the ERC committee's tour/review of the use of the ERC at Western State Hospital, and the training and preparation to begin a pilot to use the ERC at SWVMHI, beginning October 1, 2014.

The LHRC watched the ERC Training video and then Denton Staley helped ERC Committee members and Dr. McClaskey to demonstrate the actual restraint procedure in the chair.

Julie stated there are three main reasons the committee wants to move to the use of the ERC instead of supine restraints: 1) patient cardiac issues, COPD, asthma, patients with URI's would no longer have a strap across the chest, allowing the lungs to expand and not compromise breathing; 2) the chair is mobile making it easier to transport a patient, especially off ward, to the restraint room to safety; and 3) patients with abusive trauma history - the chair is less likely to cause the patient to have an episode. The weight limit is 500 lbs., but staff plan to assess the use on an individualized basis. The physician may also write an order if there are any circumstances that the ERC use would be contraindicated. The ERC Committee thinks the ERC proposes to be a better restraint device and safer for patients and staff.

Nan stated that the Committee's role in this process is to have the right to review and comment and make recommendations to the Director. She asked for any formal comments. The members asked additional questions of the staff. The question was asked if the ECR would be used in Contingency Plans or Restrictive Treatment Plans and the answer was no. Would they be used in



the Seclusion rooms and the answer was no. Would they be used in the Restraint room and the answer was yes. Would the use be private and the answer was yes. Follow-up will be put on the agenda for the January meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Nan reported Jo Ann Johns has relocated out of the area. She is not sure if the relocation to Abingdon is temporary or permanent. Nan stated she will not be in a position to provide transportation this distance. If this is a permanent move there may be a vacancy for a consumer member on the LHRC.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, November 18, 2014**, at 12:00 Noon in the Dogwood Room of the Learning Center. Nan needs an R.S.V.P. for attendance due to the need of a quorum in order to meet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Chair