

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2008

MEETING TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reba Keen, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson; Will Childers; Courtney Hewitt; Bo Miller; Millie Rhodes; Carolyn Heldreth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Rush; Valarie Robinson

STAFF PRESENT: Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Jack Wood, Director; Vicky Fisher, Chief Nurse Executive; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer; Valerie Epperley, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support); Nan Neese, Regional Human Rights Advocate

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of February 20, 2008 were accepted as previously distributed.

Review Date: No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** The summary of last year's data indicates an increase in March in restraint hours for behavioral reasons which may be attributed to one individual diagnosed with organic brain disorder. For protective restraints (excluding enclosure bed), usage was down considerably in March. For protective restraints (enclosure bed only), the number of incidents remain in line with previous months. Discussion followed.

Review Date: No further review

3. **Complaints Managed in the Informal Process:** For February and March, there were a total of five (5) complaints resolved informally ---one from Unit 2, two from Unit 4, and two from Unit 5. All were resolved within the five-day period.

Review Date: No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** Mr. Mitchell reported the admissions and discharges for the past two months has been at an expected level. There were four Readmissions In Less Than 30 Days for March. Even though this is below the national benchmark, but a little higher than what we'd like. In all four cases, the readmissions were caused by medication non-compliance. Catawba has started a performance improvement team to carefully consider the reasons why individuals discontinue the recommended medication and develop plans to assist individuals with treatment continuity thereby better assuring success when they leave. In February and March there have been two or more beds available on the adult and geriatric units, an unusual status for this facility. The availability

of beds is attributed to more temporary detention orders (TDOs) and those normally have shorter lengths of stay.

Review Date: No further review

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Wood reemphasized that the most frequent reason for readmission is individuals discontinuing medications or at least neglecting to follow the recommended course of treatment. These types of concerns were addressed during the current legislative reviews in the General Assembly and the amendments relative to mandatory outpatient treatment reflect those concerns. A part of the goal of the new legislation is to address treatment needs and follow up more thoroughly in outpatient services and prevent the need for psychiatric inpatient admission. The fact remains the \$41 million dollar budget was committed to community services increasing the number of people who are screening individuals for hospitalization while the state facilities have had their budgets reduced. Discussion followed.

Review Date: No further review

Motion for Closed Session.

A motion was made to go into closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711.A(4) for the purpose of protecting privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to the public business namely to review two investigations of abuse and/or neglect during February and March, 2008. Upon returning to open session, an LHRC member moved to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements were heard, discussed or considered. Each member so certified.

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Neese announced that the Human Rights Advocate position has been filled. She provided a brief introduction of Ms. Adrien Monti who will be beginning service with the Office of Human Rights on Monday.

Review Date: No further review

7. **Membership Report:** Courtney Hewitt's and Rena Ferguson's memberships expire in June, and Reba Keene's term is ending in June. Ms. Ferguson was asked to submit reappointment for a second term. Ms. Neese reminded the members that elections should be held at the next meeting. Some discussion followed.

Review Date: No further review

8. **Other Business:** Ms. Neese made recommendation to the LHRC to consider the transfer of Affiliation from the Blue Ridge Regional HRC to this Committee for Carilion Psychiatric Services and Lewis Gale Behavioral Healthcare. Discussion followed. Ms. Neese will have an affiliate agreement prepared for the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2008, at 3:00 PM, in the Lobby of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

Reba Keene, Chairperson