

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** April 19, 2006

**MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Reba Keen, Chairperson; Dr. Martin Ham, Vice Chairperson; Rena Ferguson; Louise Garman; Carolyn Heldreth; Courtney Hewitt;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Thayer Walker; Valarie Robinson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Linda Cecil, Assistant Chief Nurse Executive; Denise Malone, Psychology Director; Karen Calfee, Administration Support

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Sonia Smith, MSW

**GUESTS:** Ms. Millie Rhodes and Mr. Ken Rush were introduced to the Committee as potential members.

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED**

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2006 were approved as distributed.

**Review Date:** No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** Ms. Cecil reviewed the protective restraint hours including and excluding enclosure beds. Both graphs indicate the same number of patients for the months of February and March 2006, but with a slight increase in hours between the two months due to physician orders and patients' physical changes. Behavioral restraints decreased from February to March 2006, with two minor incidents. Ms. Cecil noted the restraints used were both ambulatory wrist to waist.

**Review Date:** No further review

3. **Informal Complaints:** The informal complaints for February and March 2006 were reviewed by Mr. Mitchell. Three (3) complaints were received for this period; one each from 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor; all in the miscellaneous category. All complaints were resolved within five days at the informal level.

**Review Date:** No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** The census report for February and March 2006 was reviewed by Mr. Mitchell. Adult admissions for February were 17, and 19 in March, with 19 discharges each month. There were 11 geriatric admissions for each month, with 16

discharges in February and nine (9) in March. Census continues to remain high, with an increase in geriatric admissions co-occurring at the other state facilities. The length of stay mean on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor remains high primarily due to two long-term forensic patients. There was one (1) readmission within 30 days in February, and three (3) in March. Mr. Mitchell advised these cases are reviewed by the hospital's Utilization Review Committee and then are problem-solved with the community services board.

**Review Date:** No further review

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Mitchell reported there have been no real changes for the facility since the last meeting. The Census Management Team continues to work on procedural issues involving the community and mental health services providers. Positive changes have been evident in the continuity of patient care and utilization of the most appropriate treatment settings.

Due to Mr. Wood's absence from the meeting, closed session review of patient abuse allegations will be deferred to the next meeting.

**Review Date:** June 14, 2006

6. **Review of Restrictive Plans:** Ms. Smith provided training for the Committee on the types of restrictive plan reviews (restraint and restriction on freedoms of everyday life) and the requirements for consideration during LHRC reviews. Dr. Denise Malone, Psychology Director, presented Restrictive Plan #1 to the Committee and provided clarifications as questions were raised. After review, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Plan #1 as presented. The Committee requested Dr. Malone provide a followup review of Plan #1 at the next meeting.

**Review Date:** June 14, 2006

7. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Smith reported on the formal complaint data for the period of February 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006. No trends were noted and all complaints were resolved at the Director level. Each Committee member received a 2006 LHRC/SHRC Seminar Survey to complete and return to Ms. Smith.

**Review Date:** No further review

8. **FOIA Training:** The Committee reviewed the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and a summary of selected FOIA provisions the State Human Rights Committee as detailed by Ms. Smith. A copy of the applicable VA Code was also provided.

**Review Date:** No further review

9. **Membership Report:** The two candidates for the current Committee vacancies were introduced and given the opportunity to provide information on their backgrounds. The Committee unanimously approved Mr. Rush and Ms. Rhodes for Committee membership, and Ms. Smith will forward their applications to the State committee for final approval. The candidates were invited to attend the next meeting as guests.

**Review Date:** On final approval from SHRC

10. **Other Business:** Ms. Keene provided a review of a play produced by the Glenvar High School in Salem, VA, entitled "My Father's War", described as a poignant portrayal of a family's struggle with dementia. A video of the play may be available, and could be a possible topic for an upcoming Grand Rounds for hospital staff.

**Review Date:** No further review

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2006, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

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Reba Keene, Chairperson

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