

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** August 16, 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; Courtney Hewitt; Valarie Robinson;; Millie Rhodes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ken Rush; Carolyn Heldreth

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jack L. Wood, Facility Director/CEO; Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Diane Nutter, Chief Nurse Executive; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer; Karen Calfee, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support)

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

**GUESTS:** None

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 14, 2006 meeting were approved as previously distributed.

**Review Date:** No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** Behavioral restraint hours for June were 24.4, incurred by two patients; July hours totaled 9.75 hours, incurred by one patient. Protective restraint hours excluding enclosure beds were used by 11 patients in June and 12 patients in July. Protective restraint enclosure bed only hours were utilized by four patients for each month. Nursing staff continually strive to reduce protective restraint usage by alternating the use of low beds, and attempting to keep patients out of bed as much as possible while assuring their safety. Mr. Wood requested Ms. Nutter obtain protective restraint information from two other geriatric State facilities to establish baseline comparison data, and present at the next meeting.

**Review Date:** October 18, 2006

3. **Informal Complaints:** The informal complaint report for June and July 2006 indicated a total of five (5) complaints for the period; one (1) from Unit 2, and two (2) each from Units 4 and 5. By category, one (1) each for participation and miscellaneous, and three (3) for treatment with dignity. All complaints were resolved within the required five day period at the informal level.

**Review Date:** No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** For June and July 2006, adult admissions were equal for both months, and somewhat lower than the previous period (April to May 2006). Adult discharges totaled 29 in June and 20 in July. There was one (1) readmission in less than 30 days for the two month period, which is well below the benchmark established in the community. Adult median length of stay decreased somewhat compared to the last two month period. Mr. Mitchell pointed out an unusually high geriatric admission rate for the period, which has resulted in a full geriatric census at times. This is a trend experienced by all geriatric psychiatric facilities, contributable to an aging adult population.

Mr. Mitchell advised the census management team meets daily to collaboratively manage client needs in the community. As a result, Catawba Hospital is receiving fewer of the rapidly stabilized patients and more long-term patients who require intensive treatment. Changes have been instituted to assure the safety of patients and staff for the management of these high acuity admissions, including aggressive patient management training for Security and Buildings & Grounds (predominately male) staff, and keeping the census on Unit 2 West at no more than ten patients.

**Review Date:** No further review

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Wood advised three of the previously funded facility improvement projects are underway. The elevator improvement project is now complete. An unannounced JCAHO survey was conducted on June 21-23, 2006. Catawba Hospital was the only state facility of the six others surveyed to received accreditation with two minor recommendations. On the first day of the JCAHO survey, the Inspector General also arrived for an unannounced visit. With the majority of the hospital's management and leadership involved in the JCAHO survey, the Inspector General decided to return on June 29<sup>th</sup> to complete their inspection.

In order to protect the privacy of individuals and their records, the Committee entered into closed session to review one allegation of abuse and/or neglect for the months of June and July 2006. Upon returning to open session, each member certified that only the one allegation was reviewed.

**Review of Restrictive Plan #1:** Dr. Malone reviewed the patient's progress and status of Restrictive Plan #1. The Committee approved the plan's continuation for two months, at which time Dr. Malone will provide another review of the patient's progress.

**Review Date:** October 18, 2006

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Smith reported one formal patient complaint for the period of June 1 to July 31, 2006, for request for discharge, which was resolved timely at the Director's level.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Membership Report:** The Committee membership is now full. Statewide LHRC training will be announced for Winter 2006 or Spring 2007.

**Review Date:** No further review

8. **Other Business:** None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2006, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

---

Reba Keene, Chairperson

kc