

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: October 18, 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; Millie Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Valarie Robinson; Ken Rush

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; Denise Malone, Psy.D., Psychology Director; 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 from the meeting of August 16, 2006, were approved as distributed.

Review Date: No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** Protective restraint hours decreased for the months of August and September 2006, in part contributed to fewer patients in protective restraints and an increase in the number of hours patients are out of bed. Behavioral restraint hours increased slightly during the period, primarily due to an influx of difficult to treat patients and an increase in physical aggression episodes. Ms. Nutter requested to have the protective restraint information obtained from other geriatric facilities deferred to the next meeting in order to clarify the data she received.

Review Date: December 20, 2006

3. **Informal Complaints:** The informal complaint report for August to September 2006 indicated a total of four (4) informal complaints for the period; one (1) from Unit 2, two (2) from Unit 5, and, one (1) from Unit 6. By category, three (3) complaints were miscellaneous, and one (1) was discharge. All complaints were resolved within the required five day period at the informal level.

Review Date: No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** Adult admissions and discharges for August to September 2006 are somewhat lower than the previous period. Geriatric admissions remain high for the period. Total census continues to remain full or near full for the adult units, and the trend towards full geriatric census also continues. There were two (2) readmissions in less than 30 days for the two month period. Adult and geriatric lengths of stay decreased in September compared to August. The Unit 2 West adult population increased over the last reporting period, in part due to an increase in patient aggression.

Review Date: No further review

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Wood advised the Committee on the status of the various state committees where he represents the hospital and the Department of Mental Health. During this reporting period, there were no allegations of abuse and/or neglect to review.

Review of Restrictive Plan #1: Dr. Malone review the patient's progress and status of Restrictive Plan #1. The Committee approved the plan's continuation for two months, to be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Review Date: December 20, 2006

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Smith reported there were no formal complaints for the period of August to September 2006. Ms. Smith advised Catawba Hospital is in compliance with FOIA requirements to have committee minutes posted on their website. Access can be obtained from the internet at catawba.dmhmsas.virginia.gov and choosing the link to the Local Human Rights Committee. Ms. Smith distributed the latest copy of Human Writes to each Committee member.

Review Date: No further review

7. **Membership Report:** Comments on proposed human rights regulation are due by November 17, 2006, and training should occur in late summer or fall 2007. Full committee membership continues with no scheduled vacancies until June 2007.

Review Date: No further review

8. **Other Business:** None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2006, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

Reba Keene, Chairperson