

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2012 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dianna Parrish, Chairperson; Will Childers; Millie Rhodes; Valarie Robinson; Bo Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT: JoAnn Patterson (excused)

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Dwayne Lynch, Human Rights Advocate

CH STAFF PRESENT: Walton Mitchell, III, Facility Director

LGH STAFF PRESENT: Leigh Frazier, Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health - Salem
LGH STAFF ABSENT: Mary Lavery-Fisher, Director Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health - Alleghany

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health

GUESTS: David Lofgren

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order.
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 11, 2012 meeting were approved.
3. **Advocate's Report (Dwayne Lynch):** Dwayne Lynch announced the applicant interviewed at the April meeting, Ms. Amy Wilhelm, has withdrawn her application. However, Mr. David Lofgren has requested consideration as a Committee member and will join us for an interview at the conclusion of the business portion of this meeting.

Mr. Lynch also announced that the facilities could begin using secure emails to report complaints or patient-related matters rather than faxing documents. Please use password protection.

The newsletter of the State Human Rights Committee (*Human Writes*) was distributed to the Committee.

Review Date: No further review

4. **Lewis-Gale Center for Behavioral Health Reports (Leigh Frazier):**
 - a. **Admission & Discharges:** Admissions and discharges dropped significantly in June. Readmissions peaked in May for the quarter, although admissions and discharges were highest in May, as well. Ongoing efforts to decrease readmissions continue, with no trends or patterns identified.
 - b. **Restraint Usage:** Restraint usage dropped significantly in April after being higher than average the previous quarter. There were only 2 events in April and June and 3 events in May.
 - c. **Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths:** There were 10 complaints during the quarter, all handled through the informal process with no violations found. There were five requests for advocacy services. Fifteen patients were sent to the Emergency Department due to illness during the quarter. Ten patients were treated and returned to Behavioral Health and 4 were admitted medically and then returned to Behavioral Health. There were 3 injuries due to falls, all of which were seen in the Emergency Department and

returned to Behavioral Health. No fractures were found. One patient was sent to the Emergency Department with chest pain and expired due to a heart attack while in the ED.

- d. Other Business: Peer-to-peer altercations were reviewed. There was no evidence of neglect by the facility in any of these instances.

Review Date: No further review

5. Alleghany Regional Geriatric Behavioral Health (Leigh Frazier): Mary Lavery-Fisher submitted her quarterly report, but was unable to attend the meeting.

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Admissions and discharges averaged 26 and 25 respectively for the quarter.
- b. Restraint Usage: One seclusion/restraint was reported for the quarter.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: No complaints were received during the quarter. Two patients received treatment for illness and two for injury, one of which was a fracture and was referred to the OR and Falls Task Force.
- d. Other Business: None.

Review Date: No further review

6. Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Thomas):

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges on the adolescent unit dropped in June, while admissions and discharges on both adult units rose slightly. Readmissions within 15 & 30 days remained within the normal range for the quarter.
- b. Restraint Usage: Restraint usage decreased from the previous quarter, except for a spike on the adolescent unit in May.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 10 complaints addressed through the informal process and none addressed formally during the quarter. All but one were able to be resolved and no violations found. Fifteen patients were referred to the Emergency Department for treatment, six of whom were admitted medically, while the others were treated and returned to the Psych Unit. There were 3 minor injuries and no serious injuries. Two deaths occurred during the quarter; all appropriate parties were notified.
- d. Other Business: Staffing was found to be appropriate during the peer-to-peer altercation reviewed and no advocate involvement was necessary. One complaint was investigated and deemed to be unfounded.

Review Date: No further review

7. Catawba Hospital Reports (Walton Mitchell, III):

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Admissions and discharges were stable during the quarter on both the adult and geriatric units. There were no readmissions in April and 1 for the adult and geriatric units for May & June for a total of 4 readmissions within 30 days for the quarter.
- b. Restraint Usage: Behavioral restraints continued to remain down for the quarter. Protective restraints (excluding enclosure beds) remain slightly higher than average for the quarter. Only three patients required enclosure bed use for each month of the quarter. As always, least restrictive measures are pursued prior to using the enclosure beds and the level of treatment is reviewed weekly by physical therapy and the physician to see if the patient's falls risk has decreased. Patients utilizing enclosure beds have continuous supportive observation.
- c. Complaints: There were a total of 9 complaints handled through the informal process during the quarter and none through the formal process. All complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved.
- d. Other Business: One investigation was concluded as unsubstantiated for neglect or abuse.

Review Date: No further review

The motion was made and passed to go into Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711.A. (4) and (15), for the protection of privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and to review medical records, namely to conduct a review of an investigation of an individual's abuse allegation and to interview an applicant for Committee Membership.

Upon reconvening in public session, the Local Human Rights Committee unanimously certified that only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the Closed session were discussed in the Closed session.

The LHRC endorsed the Candidate, David Lofgren, for membership and directed Dwayne Lynch to forward the application to the State Committee for its consideration for immediate reappointment.

8. **Next Meeting:** October 10, 2012

Dianna Parrish, Chairperson

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