

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: October 17, 2012 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bo Miller, Acting Chairperson; Will Childers; Millie Rhodes; David Lofgren

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dianna Parrish, Chairperson (excused); JoAnn Patterson (excused); Valarie Robinson (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: Director, Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health - Alleghany

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Mala Thomas, Director of Behavioral Health

GUESTS: Cynthia Hall

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order.
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.
3. **Advocate's Report (Dwayne Lynch)**
 - a. Mr. Lynch acknowledged and thanked Pam Cox (in absentia) for providing secretarial support to the LHRC and wished her the best in her new role at Virginia Western Community College. Debi Robison will fill in until Ms. Cox's position at Catawba Hospital is filled.
 - b. Mr. Lynch thanked the Committee members for their flexibility to attend today's meeting with the date change. He then asked the Committee members if they would be open to changing the meetings from the 2nd to the 3rd Wednesday of the month to allow the facilities additional time to gather the information presented. The Committee unanimously approved the change which will take effect for the meeting in January 2013.

- c. Mr. Lynch welcomed the newest Committee member, David Lofgren, to his first meeting and thanked him for his willingness to participate. Recruitment continues for one additional member; the Committee was asked to let Mr. Lynch know if they have someone they would like to recommend.
- d. Annual training for Committee members will be held on December 4, 2012 at Catawba Hospital. This training will include all Local Human Rights Committee Members from the Roanoke Valley; more information to follow.
- e. An application has been received for an additional consumer member. To ensure a quorum, the Committee went into closed session to interview this applicant prior to hearing the facility reports.

A 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 conduct an interview with a applicant for Local Human Rights 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, Cynthia Hall, for membership and directed Dwayne Lynch to forward the application to the State Committee for its consideration for immediate appointment.

Review Date: No Further Review

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

- a. Admissions and Discharges: There was an increase in adult admissions in August and September, whereas geriatric admissions decreased in September; discharges were stable during the quarter on both the adult and geriatric units. There were a total of 11 readmissions within 30 days for the quarter - two (2) were on the geriatric units and there were nine (9) readmissions on the adult units. One patient, who's stays were relatively short, accounted for two (2) of the adult readmissions and one (1) forensic patient, motivated to stay at Catawba instead of jail, was readmitted to the adult unit three (3) times.
- b. Restraint Usage: Behavioral restraints remained consistent in July and August, but dropped in September. Protective restraints (excluding enclosure beds) remain slightly higher than average for the quarter. Enclosure bed use continues to remain low with only 2-3 patients utilizing these for 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 nine (9) complaints handled through the informal process during the quarter and none (0) through the formal process. All complaints have been resolved in a manner acceptable to the individuals involved. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Lynch also provided an overview of the complaint process to the newest Committee member.

- d. Other Business: One (1) investigation was concluded as unsubstantiated for neglect or abuse.

Review Date: No Further Review

5. **Alleghany Regional Geriatric Behavioral Health (Leigh Frazier)**: Ms. Frazier announced that Mary Lavery-Fisher is no longer with Alleghany Regional Geriatric Behavioral Health. Acting Director, Michael Truman, submitted the quarterly report, but was unable to attend the meeting.

- a. Admissions and Discharges: Admissions and discharges averaged 29 and 30 respectively for the quarter.
- b. Restraint Usage: No seclusions/restraints were reported for the quarter.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: No complaints were received during the quarter. Three (3) patients received treatment for illnesses.
- d. Other Business: None.

Review Date: No Further Review

6. **Lewis-Gale Center for Behavioral Health Reports (Leigh Frazier)**:

- e. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges averaged 174 and 177 respectively for the quarter; the majority of adolescent/child admissions and discharges occurred in June. There were no adolescent/child readmissions in the quarter; adult readmissions decreased from 11 in both July and August to five (5) in September. Ongoing efforts to decrease readmissions continue, with no trends or patterns identified.
- a. Restraint Usage: Restraint usage increased compared to the previous quarter, but was less than the usage in the 1st quarter of the year.
- b. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were 11 complaints during the quarter, all handled through the informal process with no violations found. There was one request for advocacy services. Eighteen patients were sent to the Emergency Department due to illness during the quarter. Sixteen of these patients were treated and returned to Behavioral Health, and two (2) were admitted medically and then returned to Behavioral Health. There were five (5) injuries due to falls, all of which were seen in the Emergency Department and returned to Behavioral Health. No fractures were found.
- c. 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

4. **Carilion Behavioral Health (Mala Thomas)**:

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions and discharges on the adolescent unit were lower than normal in July; however, August and September numbers were more in line with the previous quarters. Admissions and discharges on both adult units remained consistent. Readmissions within 15 & 30 days remained within the normal range for the quarter.

- b. Restraint Usage: The number of restraint episodes remained consistent with the previous quarter; however, there was an increase in the number of patients involved. The average number of minutes per episode increased in August for both adults and child/adolescent patients.
- c. Complaints/Serious Injury/Deaths: There were ten (10) complaints addressed through the informal process and one (1) addressed formally during the quarter. All were resolved and no violations found. Five (5) patients were referred to the Emergency Department for treatment - four (4) were admitted medically and one (1) was treated and returned to the Psych Unit. There was one (1) minor injury and no serious injuries. No deaths occurred during the quarter.
- d. Other Business: Staffing was found to be appropriate during the two (2) peer-to-peer altercations reviewed. However, in one incident staff did not attempt to verbally de-escalate the situation prior to initiating a code. Protocols were reviewed with the Charge Nurse and one staff member was sent for retraining. A report was submitted to the advocate. The second complaint was investigated and deemed to be unfounded.

Review Date: No Further Review

The Local Human Rights Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Next Meeting: January 16, 2013

Bo Miller, Acting Chairperson

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