

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL  
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Local Human Rights Committee

**MEETING DATE:** June 11, 2008      **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

**PLACE:** Building 24 - Lobby

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Reba Keen, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson; Will Childers; Courtney Hewitt; Valarie Robinson; Millie Rhodes; Carolyn Heldreth

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bo Miller

**OHR STAFF PRESENT:** Adrien Monti, Human Rights Advocate; Nan Neese, Regional Advocate

**STAFF PRESENT:** Walton Mitchell, Vice President of Patient Care Services; Jack Wood, Director; Vicky Fisher, Chief Nurse Executive; Valerie Epperley, Executive Secretary (Administrative Support)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Lee Frazier, Clinical Services Director, Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health

**MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:**

1. **Review of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Chambers to accept the minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2008, Ms. Heldreth seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously accepted as submitted.

**Review Date:** No further review
  
2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** In April, there were four (4) incidents resulting in restraint hours for behavioral reasons, three of which were attributable to one patient who had some particularly challenging behaviors. After the staff worked hard on an individualized plan for this individual, the number of incidents declined dramatically from March. In May, there were five (5) incidents, all from one patient. This patient had a very difficult start at Catawba, and all of these incidents occurred between May 18 and 27. From April 8 through May 18, there were no restraints. Discussion followed. For protective restraints (enclosure bed only), the number of hours of use remain in line with previous months---four (4) patients in April and three (3) in May. For protective restraints (excluding enclosure bed), usage was down considerably in April and May, with three (3) patients for each month. Discussion followed.

**Review Date:** No further review

3. **Complaints Managed in the Informal Process:** Mr. Mitchell reported in Mr. Obenshain's absence. For April and May, there were a total of three (3) complaints resolved informally: two (2) from Unit 2 (treatment with dignity) and (participation in treatment), and one from Unit 4 (request for discharge). All were resolved within the five-day period.

**Review Date:** No further review

4. **Director's Liaison Report:** Mr. Mitchell reported the admissions and discharges for the past two months have been at an expected level. There were 20 admissions in April (10 Adult and 10 Geriatric), 1 Readmission in Less Than 30 Days, and 23 Discharges (12 Adult and 11 Geriatric). In May, there were 22 admissions (13 Adult and 9 Geriatric), which is closer to the usual amount, no Readmissions in Less Than 30 Days, and 18 discharges. The average length of stay for April (36 days for adults and 169 days for geriatrics), and the median length of stay (14 days for adults and 56 days for geriatrics) were close to the usual numbers, with the exception of 14 days for adults, which was lower than what is typical for Catawba. For May, the average length of stay for adults was 107.2 days and for geriatrics it was 81.5 days. The median length of stay for adults was 84 (which was a little higher than normal), with the median length of stay for geriatrics at 75 days. Discussion followed.

**Review Date:** No further review

5. **Director's Report:** Mr. Wood announced that Catawba hosted a large symposium today on one particular area of the new mental health court laws, Mandatory Outpatient Treatment. There were 135 participants, with several good panel speakers, including Senator Edwards, an ethicist, a consumer support specialist, and a family member from NAMI. It was a wonderful presentation about the laws that will go into effect in July. Under the new laws, an individual, rather than being involuntarily committed to receive inpatient treatment, he or she can be mandated to receive outpatient treatment under a court order. The individual has to comply with this order, and there are legal consequences for non-compliance. The next step would be possible commitment. The criteria required for involuntary commitment has also been changed. There's speculation that because the threshold for mandating involuntary treatment has been lowered, there will be an increased number of commitments to both inpatient and outpatient treatment. The purpose of the symposium was to educate people on the potential implications of the changes in legislation. It was helpful to have the dialog to get people thinking about this topic.

Things have been going well at Catawba Hospital. The census has been running in the low 100's rather than at full capacity of 110. This may be a result of beds being purchased from the community. Eighty-five percent of patients admitted are discharged back to the community without coming to Catawba.

Mr. Wood complimented Dr. Fisher and the nursing staff for the reduction in the use of protective restraints. He also complimented her in helping organize the nursing services department. Catawba has made plans to hire two clinical nurse specialists.

The number for the budget reduction has gotten lower and lower, starting at \$1.5 million and ended up at \$43,000. Catawba has recently finished a hot water project and an

energy management project. This has resulted in significant improvement in efficiency of the heating and cooling systems.

**Review Date:** No further review

6. **Advocate's Report:** Ms. Neese reported that she is pleased to have Adrien Monti on board. She then shared some information about the human rights regulations and discussed the new affiliations with the Catawba LHRC for Lewis Gale and Carilion.

**Review Date:** No further review

7. **Membership Report:** The committee noted that the terms of Courtney Hewett and Reba Keene have expired and they are not eligible for reappointment. The Office of Human Rights extended appreciation to Ms. Hewett and Ms. Keene from all areas of the office, but especially from the State Human Rights Committee. There was cake served in celebration of the excellent service they provided. Reba Keene had been very much appreciated in her role as chairperson. Due to her term having expired, it was voted that Carolyn Heldreth (who was serving as vice chair) serve as chairperson.

**Review Date:** No further review

**Other Business:**

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Reba Keene, Chairperson

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