

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: June 13, 2007

MEETING TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Martin Ham, Vice Chairperson; Carolyn Heldreth; Courtney Hewitt; Millie Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Reba Keen; Rena Ferguson; Louise Garman; Valarie Robinson; Ken Rush

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

OHR STAFF PRESENT: Sonia Smith, MSW

GUESTS: Will Childers, Bo Miller (members-elect)

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of April 18, 2007 were approved as previously distributed.

Review Date: No further review

2. **Restraint and Protective Restraint:** Protective restraints hours decreased in May 2007 compared to March and April 2007, primarily due to discharges. Behavioral restraint hours and episodes increased in May 2007, contributable to two female patients, and were ordered due to the risk of serious self-harm and aggression towards staff.

Review Date: No further review

3. **Informal Complaints:** There were a total of seven (7) informal complaints for April to May 2007. Three (3) complaints were from Unit 2, and two (2) each from Units 4 and 5. Two (2) each were for treatment with dignity and discharge, and three (3) were miscellaneous. All complaints were resolved within the five day period at the informal level. Mr. Wood acknowledged Ms. Smith and Mr. Obenshain's efforts in handling complaints to quick and satisfactory resolution.

Review Date: No further review

- 4. Director's Liaison Report:** An equal number of adult and geriatric admissions and discharges occurred in April and May 2007, primarily due to a full census and the work of the Census Management Team. As reported in previous meetings, the Census Management Team is comprised of representatives from all the community facilities and Catawba Hospital, and reviews each patient in the system to determine the most appropriate placement and services. Fulfilling its role in the community, Catawba Hospital may receive difficult to treat patients with longer lengths of stay.

Minor changes to the Adult Unit Rules were reviewed by Mr. Mitchell. Due to the lack of a quorum, the Committee moved to allow the rules to be implemented on the units, with a final vote for approval called at the next meeting.

Review Date: August 15, 2007

- 5. Director's Report:** Mr. Wood announced that effective June 1, 2007, Catawba Hospital would no longer mandate overtime for staff. Overtime has not been eliminated, but staff are now offered incentives for volunteering to work overtime. Staffing has improved through hiring initiatives and adjusting staffing ratios.

Review of Restrictive Plan #1: Mr. Blasiolo advised the treatment team for the involved patient has decided to discontinue the restrictive portion of the treatment plan in favor of behavioral guidelines. The patient has had no aggressive episodes for three months, and the restrictive plan has not been used since its approval. The patient's coping skills have improved, and he is demonstrating better self-control. The patient's relationship with the treatment team is good, and the behavioral plan and reinforcers will remain in place.

Review Date: No further review

In order to protect the privacy of individuals and their records, the Committee entered into closed session to review four allegations of abuse and/or neglect from January 2007 to May 2007. The Committee voted to allow the two members-elect to remain during the closed session. Upon returning to open session, each member certified that only the four allegations were reviewed.

Review Date: No further review

- 6. Advocate's Report:** There were two formal complaints April 1, 2007; both were in the treatment with dignity category, and were resolved at the director level. Ms. Smith advised the Human Rights Regulations are currently in the Governor's Office with an indeterminate date for implementation.

Review Date: No further review

- 7. Membership Report:** Ms. Smith announced a three year reappointment has been approved for Valerie Robinson and Carolyn Heldreth. Initial three year appointments for Bo Miller and Will Childers have also been approved. The Committee and Catawba Hospital staff recognized Martin Ham and Louise Garman for their extensive service years on the Catawba LHRC. Mr. Wood also presented the Committee with an award for stellar volunteerism from the State Board of Mental Health.

Review Date: No further review

8. **Other Business:** Ms. Heldreth and Ms. Rhodes advised of their participation in a conference call regarding an ECT procedure. Ms. Smith will followup to assure a report is provided at the next Committee meeting.

Review Date: August 15, 2007

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2007, at 3:00 PM, in the Conference Room of Building 24, Catawba Hospital.

Reba Keene, Chairperson

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