

**CATAWBA HOSPITAL
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA**

MINUTES

COMMITTEE NAME: Local Human Rights Committee

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2009 **MEETING TIME:** 3:00 PM

PLACE: Building 24 - Lobby

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson; Rena Ferguson, Vice Chairperson; Will Childers; Bo Miller; Millie Rhodes; Valarie Robinson; JoAnn Patterson; Letitia Malone

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

CH STAFF PRESENT: Jack Wood, Director; Vicky Fisher, Chief Nurse Executive; Don Obenshain, Corporate Compliance Officer

LGH STAFF PRESENT: None

CHS STAFF PRESENT: Ann Hutton, Director of Connect; Marlene Adams, RN, Behavioral Health

GUESTS: Dianna Parrish

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Heldreth formally welcomed new members Letitia Malone and JoAnn Patterson, along with guest, Dianna Parrish.
2. **Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting were approved.

Review Date: No further review

3. **Advocate's Report (Adrien Monti):** Ms. Monti acknowledged and thanked the Catawba Hospital Dietary Department for the wonderful refreshments provided. All present agreed on the outstanding effort put forth by the dietary staff.
 - a. **Membership Report** – With the retirement of the Human Rights Advocates in the Richmond and Lynchburg areas, duties and territories throughout the state will be redistributed. Region 3 will now be taking on the Piedmont area, including Franklin, Patrick, and Henry County.
 - b. **Complaints Addressed through the Formal Process** – Eight (8) complaints were addressed through the formal complaint process at Catawba Hospital during the months of December and January, many of which were from the same person and the majority were in the treatment with dignity category. There were six (6) complaints addressed through the formal process from Carilion, three of which were abuse allegations. Through an independent

investigation by the advocate, numerous human rights violations were noted, resulting in a licensing citation. These matters will be discussed further in closed session. Lewis-Gale did not have any complaints addressed through the formal process during December and January.

- c. State Human Rights Committee – No new business to report.

Review Date: April 8, 2009

4. Catawba Hospital Reports:

- a. Behavioral and Protective Restraints (Vicky Fisher) – Behavioral restraint hours reported increased in December slightly; however, it should be noted that almost 9 hours of the 11.12 hours of restraint were for one patient. Protective restraint usage continues to decrease, and there continues to be no use of enclosure beds at all.
- b. Complaints Addressed through the Informal Process (Don Obenshain) – There were a total of 12 complaints from 5 different patients addressed through the informal complaint process. All complaints were resolved within 5 days.
- c. Director's Liaison's Report (Jack Wood) – The data is now being reported in graph form and was presented to the Committee for the past 12 months. Geriatric admissions and overall census remains below average. The median length of stay was affected by several long-term patients being discharged in the last two months.
- d. Director's Report (Jack Wood) – Statewide, the proposed budget cuts are still being sorted out; however, the new funding allocated for mental health services will not be negated. Efficiency savings will make up a large portion of subsidy. Locally, the acuity among the patients has been extremely high on both the male and female adult units. There has been an increase in the number of clinical case conferences in order to address and manage situations as they arise. The nursing department has been successful in recruiting 5 new RN's.

Review Date: No further review

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

There was not a Lewis-Gale representative present to provide reports.

Review Date: April 8, 2009

6. Carilion Behavioral Health (Ann Hutton, Marlene Adams): Revised reports were submitted for October and November, along with new reports for December and January.

- a. Admission & Discharges: Admissions were down for January 2009.
- b. Restraint Usage: There were 12 restraints in October and November involving 2 different patients; 2 in December; and, 7 restraints in January that involved 2 different patients.
- c. Complaints: There were 2 complaints listed as informal for October; 2 informal and 15 complaints resolved through the formal process in December; and in January, there were 6 complaints addressed through the informal process and 2 through the formal process.
- d. Abuse/Neglect/Serious Injury/Death: There were seven abuse/neglect allegations from 2 different patients. One was determined to be unsubstantiated. The outcome of the other six allegations is still pending. The Office of Licensing issued a citation of Human Rights Violation; Carilion submitted a corrective action plan, but it was not acceptable to the Office of Human Rights and is currently being revised. These matters will be discussed in more detail during closed session. There were no deaths listed for the month of January, although the advocate noted that one had previously been reported to her, and this appears to be a

failure to follow through with reporting accurately to the LHRC. A revised January report was requested to be presented at the next scheduled meeting.

- e. **Other Business:** The construction is complete and the variance is no longer needed. The patients are scheduled to move into the annex on Friday, February 13, 2009. A formal request to remove the variance will be made to the State Human Rights Committee. It was decided to carryover the review of policies related to restraint and seclusion to the next meeting scheduled for April.

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7. **Other Business:** Nan Neese reported the State Human Rights Committee has issued a memo to Members of the Local Human Rights Committees addressing the growing number of new providers in need of affiliation, and the increased need for local committees to accept additional affiliates as needed. Copies of this letter will be sent to each member.

8. **Next Meeting:** April 8, 2009

Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711. A. (4) and (15). (Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.), Ms. Heldreth moved that the LHRC go into closed session for the purpose of protecting the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business and the discussion of a completed investigation of abuse allegations and human rights violations. The LHRC will also interview a prospective member during closed session..

Upon re-entering public session, Ms. Heldreth moved that each member certify that to the best of his or her knowledge that only matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was seconded and each member so certified.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Carolyn Heldreth, Chairperson

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