LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 15, 2010
McKim Hall, Room 3143
University of Virginia Health System
12:00pm – 3:00pm

Members:	**Ken Moore** – Chair	Jenny Oliver – Secretary	
	Myra Anderson	**Beth Green**	**Judith Minter**
UVA Representatives:	**Penny Horner**	**Lynne Fleming** – Legal Counsel	Lorna Facteau, Ex-Officio
	Susan Hess		Bankole Johnson
Regional Advocate:	**Chuck Collins**		

Names in Bold represent those present

Topic	Discussion/Conclusion	Action/ Recommendations
Meeting called to order	Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 12:30.	
Public Comment	Mr. Moore asked if increasing the membership should be considered. Mr. Collins explained that this group is required to have 5 members, consisting of at least 2 consumers and 1 health care provider, and that 3 members were needed at each meeting to conduct business. Additional members could be anyone with interest from the community. Other larger groups have at least 7 members. Mr. Collins further explained that licensed providers are required to be affiliated with a Local Human Rights Committee and that affiliated members pay dues (usually $100 or $200 per affiliate per year). Licensure at the Department has increased in two areas: Medicare waiver and intensive in-home services for children. Mr. Collins reported that the Commonwealth Center may be closed this year. The 48-bed facility for children and adolescents was targeted for closure last year but because of passionate support from the community, it stayed open. The facility employees 100 people. Census averages 30 patients. Mr. Collins pointed out that this employee/patient ratio is difficult to justify in a time of difficult budget issues. The state cannot require admission of adolescents or children except at the Commonwealth Center. In November, the facility flooded. Patients were moved to Western State Hospital where 25 patients are currently housed.	

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	Mr. Collins stated that budget issues are unresolved. The Human Rights Division lost 3 positions last year. The loss of the after-care pharmacy is huge. Region Ten is looking for a source of lower-cost drugs. Mr. Moore provided this quotation: Recovery is the restoration of hope. Mr. Collins commended Brenda Barrett, 5 East RN, for her recent work with patients. Mr. Moore described Mr. Collins' approach to resolution as being about mediation and negotiation rather and adversary and fighting. Mr. Collins reported receiving 6 patient calls in December, generally concerning discharge planning complaints. He pointed out that sometimes patients do not understand why they were admitted or what they need to do to be discharged. Ms Hess reported on an action plan in place on Rucker 3 to improve patient satisfaction with discharge planning.	
Meeting Minutes	Ms Horner updated the Committee on current Psychiatry Services capacity: Rucker 3 will remain open until October 2010 with 12 beds (down from 20 beds). 5 East will continue to operate 16 beds. Rucker 3 was closed briefly during December because of low census but has been reopened. Mr. Moore reported that the letter concerning Rucker 3 closing that was to be written by Ms Oliver is still forthcoming. The October 9 Minutes were accepted with the following correction: "Mr. Moore asked that the minutes reflect the Committee's awareness that UVA Psychiatric Services staff that are part of this group were not part of the decision-making process."	
Reports	**Complaints and Restraint Log:** Ms Horner reported that no restraints were used on 5 East or Rucker 3 in the last quarter. There were no complaints on Rucker 3. The 5 East complaint log was reviewed. Mr. Collins reported that the system of email communications between him and 5 East and Rucker 3 works efficiently.	

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	Ms Green asked if all complaints were resolved positively. There are complaints that are not resolved at the unit level and resolution could involve the Local Human Rights Committee. Patients are informed that they have the right to make complaints and whom to contact.	
Program Updates	Budget cuts made it necessary to redeploy personnel. RT and OT were not impacted. Ms Hess reported that a new nursing rounding program is in place: at shift change the on-coming and out-going nurses meet with patients and discuss treatment and discharge plans. Dr. Thomas, the Rucker 3 attending physician, includes discharge planning in rounds. Ms Hess invited the group to a community event to discuss meaningfully change. This is an Appreciated Inquiry initiative that focuses on positive aspects of doing business. The event will be February 26 and 27. Ms Minter expressed interest in the programs on the units and how admission and therapy work. The next meeting will be held on April 23 (changed from April 16) in a new location: the Blake Center, Room CR1107. The Blake Center is located on the corner of Jefferson Park Avenue and West Main Street, very close to the 11th Street garage. Mr. Moore described changes resulting from funding cuts at Region 10: While continuing their primary mission of helping those with serious mental health issues, medical management as a separate service has been discontinued. Some moderately ill patients are seeking help at the Free Clinic. Prisoners on anti-psychotic drugs cannot be served by Region 10 without additional funding. Region Ten and other providers will be coming together in February at a forum in an effort to resolve fragmented mental health services and to work toward providing wrap-around care.	Ms Hess agreed to prepare a presentation for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Friday, April 23, 2010, Blake Center, Room CR1107.