

# VPCH Advisory Committee

**11/29/2021**

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Attendees: Greg Tomasulo, Jeremy Smith, Heidi Gee, Sarah Sherbrook, Missy McGibney, Diane Bugbee, Karen Barber, Laura Shanks, Anna Strong, Julie Vose

## Hospital Update: (Gregory Tomasulo)

Missy McGibney is currently the interim Social Services Chief since Elizabeth Kanard resigned from that position. Missy has stepped into the interim position while we recruit and has been a tremendous help.

## Medical Director Update: (Given by Greg Tomasulo for Alisson Richards)

This week we will be having a new Medical Resident join us a VPCH, they are coming from the University of Vermont in Burlington. We also have a Physician's Assistant student who will be working alongside Lola Amdahl.

## Nursing Update: (Given by Greg Tomasulo for Stephanie Shaw)

Regarding staffing, we have onboarded several new travelers recently and they are already working on the units. We have more slated to start December 6<sup>th</sup> and we are hoping this will allow our census to grow. We have started to transition some of our hospitalized persons on to C unit, which had been closed, along with D unit, for almost two years. We have not increased our census but are working on those plans for when it is safe to do so.

There is a vaccine mandate that came from CMS, it stated that all healthcare workers need to be vaccinated by December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We are unsure how this new mandate will affect our staffing, but we think our nursing department will be impacted the least.

Q: What is the current census?

A: We have census of 16 right now, we can't increase that until we have a more solid picture of what our staffing will look like. The current steps that we have taken will help our nurses, custodial, and kitchen get into the swing of operating three units again.

Q: Is the handbook launched?

A: Yes, it was finalized a few meetings ago, it is fully revised and is the current version being given to patients, it is also on the VPCH website.

Psychology Update: (Greg Tomasulo)

Dr. Huitt and I have put together a training on PTSD and Trauma Care that will go up on our Learning Management System so that those who are interested can view the training at any point. Rhett Williams has created a new program for MHS staff where they can complete a certain number of trainings to become an AMHS.

In our Recovery Services department, we had hired a new Clinician but before their start date they reseeded their acceptance. We have the position posted again and it will close on Monday of next week at midnight.

We have started to recently review those who have a history of EIP's, so we have a better trauma approached method to help them when they get here.

Social Work Update: (Missy McGibney)

We recently got a Social Work Masters level intern who will be with us through the whole academic year, her name is Amanda McAllister.

The Social Work Team is down one position; we are all working together to make it work.

Facilities Update: (Heidi Gee)

The extra parking spots have been paved in the parking lot, the retention pond is still not completed, and all the sinks that were in question have been inspected, some with minor water damage and they have been repaired.

Working on repairing the sensory room, the carpeting will be laid down soon. There is a team working on new sensory items to go in the finished room, more to come.

DMH Update: (Karen Barber)

The legislative sessions will be starting soon, no big pieces of legislation from DMH to put forth. Construction has begun for the new residency in Essex, they front loaded the soil, which will allow them to do construction during the winter.

Hiring at the department, looking forward to getting back to a full team at DMH.

VPCH is still in the hiring process for finding a new CEO.

Quality Update: (Jeremy Smith)

See dashboard attached.

General Questions:

Q: What staff do to honor traditions of hospitalized persons in the hospital during the holidays?

A: Today Greg saw staff and hospitalized persons starting to decorate the units. RS department hosts a social during the holiday season that is extra special. Danielle Ruffner is putting together a choir that will have some musical accompaniment. We also just created the giving tree, an MHS painted a beautiful tree in the lobby and if a hospitalized person needs an item, they can put it on the tree and staff can voluntarily get the item. The Social Work department goes shopping so that all persons hospitalized will have something to open on Christmas morning. The tricky part is not buying items too far in advance in case someone is discharged from VPCH, as we get closer to the 25<sup>th</sup> we will start shopping.