

VPCH Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2018

Attending: Emily Hawes (VPCH CEO), Scott Perry (VPCH), Heidi Gee (VPCH), Dr. Alisson Richards (VPCH), Greg Tomasulo (VPCH), Stephanie Shaw RN (VPCH), Jeremy Smith (VPCH), Cathy Rickerby (Community Member), Michael Sabourin (VT Psychiatric Survivors), Laurie Emerson (NAMI), Zach Horzid (DRVT), Diane Bugbee (Community Member)

MD Report – Alisson Richards

VPCH has started the process of moving to patient-centered rounds, which is a best practice model and becoming the standard of care. “Nothing about me without me” is the goal. The first step in this process was to assign physicians and Social Workers to specific units which has been completed.

We are also moving to evidence-based risk assessments. The BROSET Violence Risk Assessment is currently in use. The Columbia Suicide Risk Assessment will be introduced soon.

Dr. Molly Rovin began working at VPCH in July. There are two part-time physicians approaching retirement; it is anticipated that we will hire one full-time physician when that happens.

Nursing Report – Stephanie Shaw

We are the closest to filling all classified positions that we’ve been since VPCH opened. There has been a significant effort made to shorten timelines from application to interview to hiring decision. We believe the faster process has allowed us to avoid losing good candidates in this tight job market.

A Safety Council has been established in response to the VOSHA findings earlier this year. The Council consists of 12-15 employees who meet biweekly. They have worked closely with Quality to draft a Workplace Violence Prevention plan and have developed scenario-based trainings utilizing Pro-ACT principles that all direct care staff are encouraged to attend.

Quality Report – Scott Perry / Jeremy Smith

Reviewed dashboard. Attendees requested that the number of involuntarily admitted patients that are subsequently involuntarily medicated be included in the dashboard. Also requested a category that reports incidents of patients self-harming.

There was a question about a trauma response to high risk events. This will be discussed at the next meeting (January 28, 2019).

Operations Report – Heidi Gee

We are working with the Berlin Police Department on emergency building access in the event of workplace violence.

Patients' rights posters have been updated and replaced on the units.

The breakaway doors (patient rooms and some bathrooms) have presented privacy issues. The original fix has presented a new challenge and will be replaced with a bristle insert to maintain privacy.

CEO Report – Emily Hawes

Our final meeting with VOSHA will be held in March, when VOSHA representatives will meet with the Safety Council.

Our next Joint Commission survey is due in April/July 2019. Although we believe we are always ready for a survey, regular meetings are being held to review and address any issues.

Nursing continues to explore 12-hour shifts. Any change is far in the future, but discussions continue.

An updated draft of the Visitor Guide was made available to attendees; comments directly to Emily are encouraged.

Updated draft of charter presented to attendees.

Questions:

- Did SOV/VPCH have to pay the \$14 million fine imposed by VOSHA? Was the requirement for body armor implemented? No, both requirements were rescinded as part of the agreement reached with VOSHA.
- Are there continuing problems with racism at the hospital? Defer question to General Counsel for response.
- Advisory Committee Charter details as part of the Member Responsibilities “Review and provide input for policies, services, budget, finance, and resource information.” Is this available for everyone to review? Yes, information is available online.

Following discussion regarding future meetings, the group decided to meet bimonthly rather than quarterly. The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on January 28, 2019.