

## **Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital**

### **Advisory Committee meeting**

**February 27, 2017 1:30 PM**

Members present: Mourning Fox, Cathy Rickerby, Heidi Gee, Michael Sabourin, Eva Belatski, Scott Perry, Karen Barber, Melissa Bailey, Alisson Richards, Frank Reed, Laurie Emerson (by phone) Sarah Sherbrook, Betty Keller

#### **Commissioner Melissa Bailey**

Commissioner Bailey announced Jeff's last day as CEO at VPCH was last Friday. Frank Reed will be interim CEO while the position is recruited for. It is an exempt position appointed by the Governor. Frank will be here part time and as needed. Mourning Fox will also be attending meetings and assisting with other hospital functions.

Discussion followed regarding the role of exempt positions and the role of the Advisory Committee in relation to hiring and termination of these positions. Question about vetting process for the new CEO. DMH Leadership will update the Advisory about the process.

Scott Perry discussed the positive cultural changes at VPCH regarding the utilization of emergency involuntary procedures and increases in staff expectations of not being hurt in the workplace.

#### **Medical Director's report: Dr. Richards**

Dr. Richards reported there have been no recent changes among the medical staff. The two newest attending physicians are participating in the Collaborative Network one year training in dialogic practice. Options for training modalities are being considered on this topic for VPCH.

There is a discharge planning taskforce looking specifically at challenges for patients with specialized discharge needs. DMH Care Management team assists VPCH treatment teams with this level of discharge planning.

Suggestion made by committee members to focus more on the inclusion of family members and support persons in the discharge planning process. Recommendation made to finish the Family and Visitor guide, including information about the involuntary hospitalization process.

#### **Nursing Department: Scott Perry**

There has been a decreased need to mandate staff due to changes in acuity and patients under one-to-one constant observation. Numerous nursing processes are currently being reviewed and discussed.

The Code of Civility has been developed and adopted by hospital staff.

Posting and recruiting for the chief nursing executive position is being considered, as well as the needs of nursing administration in general. Advertising and hiring for permanent RN positions continues.

There are 32 nursing students at VPCH from Norwich and UVM this semester. This has been a positive experience for both students and hospital employees.

### **Quality Dashboard**

The Dashboard was reviewed and discussed by the group (see attached). Discussion followed about length of stay and safety performance measures.

### **Operations Department: Heidi Gee**

Heidi Gee reported that another security mirror has been installed, leaving only one remaining requiring installation in the patient rooms.

The radio-only emergency response system is close to being in place. Implementation will require procedure development and staff training.

Containers will arrive soon for composting at VPCH.

Artwork for the admission area is being selected. Staff and patients have participated in the process. Heidi can give a tour to committee members when it is complete.

Architecture Plus (A+) and CHA ~ design/construction solutions are reviewing the yard fence for the State of New York's Mental Health Department. They are looking for an alternative to traditional secure fencing.

### **Other topics**

Karen Barber gave an update on S.3. the duty to warn mental health bill that defines when mental health treatment providers have a duty to disclose patient related information. The bill is making progress and hopefully will go to the House. Karen will give additional updates at a later Advisory meeting.

### **Next meeting**

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 1330-1530