

VPCH Advisory Committee

3/28/2022

Attendees: Greg Tomasulo, Daryl Hall, Sarah Sherbrook, Anna Strong, Linda Cramer, Alisson Richards, Missy McGibney, Grace Winters, Carolyn Starr

Daryl gave a brief intro and introduced himself to Linda. Linda said that she would like to meet Daryl the next time she is at VPCH.

Medical Director Update: (Alisson Richards)

A few changes to the med staff; Patricia Fintak has been out on maternity leave and will not be returning to VPCH, she will be staying on at UVMC. Lola Amdahl who has been on as an interim PA will be leaving as well in June. Patricia's position will be posted soon but we do have a candidate that the med staff will be interviewing soon, he is from Buffalo, NY and would like to come back to this area.

Molly and Sam continue to admit/discharge and doing a great job.

Nursing Update: (Grace Winters)

Grace has been training with Stephanie as she is going to be taking over while Stephanie is out on Maternity leave. Staffing update-not to much has changed, we are at 50% of travelers right now but are doing some in person interviews. We are starting to allow visitors, but they need to call and schedule first.

Operations Update: (Anna Strong)

Anna had been training with Heidi and is currently the interim Hospital Operations Co-Chief. Anna said we are currently over budget; Staffing is an issue and the cost of traveling nurses is high. She mentioned that we are currently in the Joint Commission window.

Psychology and Recovery Services Update: (Greg Tomasulo)

Greg mentioned that Steph has been working very hard for months-Nurses have received retention bonuses and shift differential and another bonus will be coming very soon.

Greg said that RS is going smoothly but we are down 1 RS Clinician and have been down 1 for 6 months. Offers have been made but have been turned down but will continue to look. Maybe brainstorm on what can be done to change the process of recruiting, maybe change the job description.

He said that there has been a lot of talk/work around enhancing the fitness room, weight resistant equipment/sand filled canvas bags (safe options) Purchased them and ready to implement the plan-at the finish line with this.

Social Services: (Missy McGibney)

Missy said they are down 1 SW position and are trying to expand the search. Does have a few candidates and will start interviewing next week.

Social Work Interim starting at the end of May, coming from Columbia College.

Missy said that they are trying to work with the patient's families to get visits due to all the changes, 12-hour shifts, old visitor hours.

Quality Update: (Sarah Sherbrook)

Sarah shared the dashboard. The Dashboard is located at [VPCH Advisory Committee | Department of Mental Health \(vermont.gov\)](#)

CEO Update: (Daryl Hall)

Daryl mentioned that we are currently in our JC Survey window.

Heidi Gee last day is 3/30-Anna Strong is the interim

Sarah Sherbrook last day is 4/7-Going to be interviewing for this position.

Steph is out on maternity leave-Grace Winters is the interim.

DMH Update: (Karen Barber)

Karen was unable to make this meeting.

Misc. Items:

Linda mentioned that the last time she was here that a staff member mentioned that the patients are unable to use the tablets to keep in contact with their families if they didn't have an email account. Greg said that they can set up a Gmail account for free and if they need help go to himself or a MHS for help to set up.

Linda mentioned the film on all the windows in the hospital.

Linda mentioned that when she visited Unit C last time, she noticed all the very colorful and fabulous artwork on the walls and wondered about the other units. Greg said that they had a problem with the patients ripping it down and looking at other ways to brighten up the units, possibly some vinyl artwork.