

VPCH Advisory Committee

11/28/2022

Attendees: Lynda Cramer, Missy McGibney, Sam Evenson, Greg Tomasulo, Jeremy Smith, Grace Winters, Stephanie Shaw, Anna Strong, Anne Donahue, Julie Vose

Chief Executive Officer Update: (Stephanie Shaw)

Actively recruiting for CEO and have done some first and second round interviews. Have an applicant from Pennsylvania with great experience, she will be coming to VPCH.

Actively recruiting for Quality Director and a second Clinical Informatics Analyst person. David Fogel will be starting next week; he is one of the Clinical Informatics Analyst.

Still many vacant MHS and RN positions. At DMH level a workgroup has been established for recruitment and retention, working on creative ideas and excited to see what work they come up with.

UVM notified us last month that our contract that was going to be renewed, they are no longer interested in renewing for many reasons, but mostly needing their staff back. An RFP went out today for this facility and for the new facility.

Officially completed our Joint Commission survey, we were awarded accreditation. We are current on our corrective actions. Our hospital license was submitted and has been approved, we are re-licensed.

COVID practices have pivoted in the last few months, not requiring masks in non-patient care areas is a big change.

Our internal policy committee has started meeting again. Working on getting updated policies added to the website along with the patient handbook.

Q: Can we join this meeting on site again?

A: Yes, you are welcome to join us at VPCH for the meeting or join on Teams.

Medical Director Update: (Dr. Sam Evenson)

March 31st is the last day of the UVM contract.

Open Dialogue and Person-Centered Rounds are occurring on C unit. This means that hospitalized persons meet with their entire treatment team and can share what is on their mind and what would be helpful. Each person on the team has a chance to provide updates, this helps provide continuity and dialogue that will continue throughout the week. Going well so far and hopes to use is hospital wide someday.

Have had several locum Psychiatrist recently, they are only here for a short amount of time. Currently Dr. Miglani and Dr. Bardessono are here currently, in January Dr. Groom will be joining us.

Q: When does the new contract go out to bid?

A: The RFP went out today.

Units A, B, and C are almost full, we have two open beds. Due to staffing shortages, we are unable to fully open D unit again.

Q: Can patient representatives go onto the units?

A: Yes, they can, they should connect with Mark Holderbach, they can go on the unit whenever you want.

Q: Where would I get a copy of the grievance policy?

A: On the website, if issues finding it email Jeremy Smith.

Q: Is the Grievance policy posted on the units?

A: Not sure the policy is posted but other things are posted that mention it and the handbook references the grievance policy.

Q: Was the input given on the patient handbook used?

A: Yes, it is finished.

Q: Do you send the original grievance with the response?

A: No, the grievance response is hand delivered to the hospitalized persons. If someone would like their original grievance, we can get it to them.

Waiting to hear from Judiciary about if they plan to have court at VPCH on site again.

Nursing Update: (Grace Winters)

Starting next week, we will be sending one MHS and one RN to the Collaborative Network Approach, excited to see what they bring back with them and teach our staff.

Psychology & Recovery Services Update: (Greg Tomasulo)

Almost all the equipment has arrived for the new sensory room, the last piece of furniture we are waiting on will arrive in January and then we can begin installation. Hoping this will reduce violence and reduce use of seclusion and restraint. N staff vacancies in his department.

Social Work Update: (Missy McGibney)

Social Work is fully staffed, recently obtained a SW from another department who is currently working on her license. One of our SW just obtained her license. One of our SW has completed the CNE training,

and another one is going to start in December when the new session starts up. Trying to send one SW per training.

Operations Update: (Anna Strong)

Getting ready for winter. Continually need to address our accessibility to internet and remote court options. David Fogel will be starting next week, he is our new Clinical Informatics Analyst, and we have a second position that we are recruiting for. Generator test today was successful

Other Business:

Q: Hearing that the patient rights that are supposed to be posted on units are not, do you know if they have been posted.

A: This is the first time we are hearing this, when Stephanie was on the units last week, she saw them posted. They are behind glass; they had been moved from where they were originally due to some hospitalized persons ripping wall hangings down. Stephanie will double they are posted and will email Linda.

Q: Is there a statewide group of people from other hospitals and DMH who are working on the recruitment and retention?

A: No, not statewide with this focus, seen more at the federal level at how to address nationally. We can't compete with the travel market. Affiliating with local colleges, and looking at salaries. Recruiting happens so differently than it did five years ago, looking into other recruitment platforms. The department as a whole is working together.

A list of Advisory Committee members was created Anne D. said but Stephanie has never seen this list, no one is sure who the holder of the list is, we might need to recreate it.

Attendance has not been robust, asked what folks would like this meeting to look like. It was suggested that we bring policies here and get input on them or any other major hospital changes that members could weigh in on.

Wanted to commend orientation instructors for the training style that they are formulating.