

VPCH Advisory Committee

03/25/2024

Attendees: Amy Richardson, Laurie Emerson, Dr. Sam Evenson, Missy McGibney, Joanna Stevens, Greg Tomasulo, Wendy Shapiro, Julie Vose

CEO Update: (Wendy Shapiro)

We have hired a Director of Operations, Nicole Garcia, who will be starting on 4/21/24. Nicole is currently the Staffing Office Manager and has been with the state for 15 years. We currently have 16 hospitalized individuals here and with current staffing levels increase census up to 21. We are replacing all the tables on the units both in the dining area and quiet rooms. The new tables will have an X base which allows more leg room and given the material will withstand our cleaning requirements. The tables will hopefully arrive here in 3-4 months.

Psychology and Recovery Services Update: (Greg Tomasulo)

Will be getting a big upgrade to the audio and visual equipment in the library, we use the room to have presentations, groups, and movies and NAMI sometimes uses that equipment as well. Currently we have a cart with a tv on it that we wheel in when in use. Will be getting a big screen TV and, in the future, will have a system like what is currently in the Special Events Dining Room that is used for meetings. We have rolled out several new groups, such as Grieving and Loss (have gotten good attendance), self-care group, and a group that focuses on health, such as activities, food, and the connection between mental and physical. Trying to get pet therapy back into the building, haven't had it since pre-COVID and it was always very well attended. We have some volunteers already, just need to go through a few more hoops to finalize the agreement. Both Psychology and Recovery Services are fully staffed.

Physician Update: (Dr. Sam Evenson)

We continue to have full on call staffing and have signed on two full time Staff Psychiatrist, along with Dr. Evenson. We have a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner coming in April to help cover until Dr. Lecours starts. We still have a vacant full-time Staff Psychiatrist position.

Social Work Update: (Missy McGibney)

The Social Work department is fully staffed, two of the current Social Workers are UVM graduates and they have started to partner with some of their former professors on a research project. They are hoping to possibly present at the NASW conference next year. We have a Social Worker who is close to taking her licensure exam in the next couple of months.

Quality Update: (Joanna Stevens)

Working on various data collection, such as EIP data, we are looking at the assessment and Broset scores leading up to the EIP. No patterns have shown up in the data collection, but we are still reviewing to be proactive. Our two Clinical Informatics Analysts have been doing a lot of work behind the scenes with our EHR, reviewing how we are utilizing it and making more efficient workflows. The Dashboard has been revamped, most of the same information but there have been some changes.

The committee reviewed the Dashboard, it is attached.

Q: Please explain the court ordered medications.

A: I don't think the number pulled over right, it says 0 on the Dashboard but we have some. Any hospitalized individual who is admitted here and is receiving medications as part of a court order it would go here.

Other Business:

Q: Do you give hospitalized individuals language access by getting interpreters?

A: Yes, we have a few contracts for interpreter services. Missy McGibney listed off the current contracts we have on file, the vendors come on site, but we rarely need to use them. We are working with DMH to have many of our documents that are given during an Admission translated.

Q: Do you get representatives from Psychiatric Survivors?

A: Yes, Kat Parker comes every Friday typically.

Q: How are the support groups from NAMI going?

A: They are going well.