

VPCH Advisory Committee

10/16/2023

Attendees: Diane Bugbee, Rhonda Prenskey, Laurie Emerson, Wendy Shapiro, Anna Strong, Missy McGibney, Joanna Stevens, Grace Winters, Jeremy Smith

Departmental Updates: (Wendy Shapiro)

Karen Barber was unable to attend the meeting to give updates. Any updates regarding the forensic units at VPCH will come through Central Office. If any members have questions, please reach out to Wendy and she will pass them along to the Central Office.

CEO Updates: (Wendy Shapiro)

On July 1st VPCH switched from UVM to the Columbus Organization for our medical staff. Since that time a Medical Director has been hired, Dr. Sam Evenson, and a staff psychiatrist who will be coming on board 12/1/23 and is currently an on-call provider. Interviewing for the second and third physician positions. Two of our on-call physicians (Dr. Burgess & Dr. Dudek) are providing coverage as we transition. Beginning on 10/23 we will have a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who will be working through until January to provide additional support. Starting the week of 10/30/23 our capacity will start going up to reach 21.

Nursing Updates: (Grace Winters)

We are considered fully staffed between permanent and travel staff. We have been having luck with recruitment and hiring, which means that we need less travel staff.

We have been conducting drills on EIPs with emphasis on safe manual holds, and safe escorts to seclusion, focusing on patient and staff safety. There has been a lot of positive feedback from these drills.

Operations Updates: (Anna Strong)

Working to fill some staff vacancies, in Admissions we have four out of five positions full, actively recruiting to fill final position. We have two Clinical Informatics Analyst positions that oversee our Electronic Healthcare Records (EHR), one of those positions has been filled by a gentleman who will be starting in November.

Our Facilities Coordinator is handling a lot of Joint Commission Emergency Preparedness planning.

With our 10-year anniversary coming up we are starting to look at infrastructure items, need to do a deep dive of physical items. Three vendors will be coming to VPCH to assess what furniture needs to be replaced and will have a summary done and presented to us in December.

Have had great luck at finding vinyl world maps, we are no longer using framed or covered posters after a patient removed frame from wall and weaponized it. Would love to hear feedback from advisory members on what other vinyl art should be purchased?

Advisory member remark: A specific spot to have a patient mural as a way for someone to express themselves.

Operations response: We have mural sized artwork from hospitalized patients around the building. Aware of vinyl paint that we could purchase, will bring this item to Executive Leadership.

Social Work Updates: (Missy McGibney)

Social Work is fully staffed, hired Katie Roach in July. Both Missy and another Social Worker are fully licensed, the other two members of her team are rostered and should be fully licensed within the next year and half.

Attending the National Association of Social Work conference for the Vermont chapter.

Q: We hear about staffing shortages in lots of professions, how does this affect discharges and does this result in longer stays?

A: We the biggest impact of staffing shortages from the provider and case manager appointments, getting a follow-up provider appointment is taking longer than expected. This hasn't caused a delay in discharges, but our team makes sure an appointment is scheduled before they leave. There have been no issues with placements, the referral process has stayed about the same.

Psychology Updates: (Wendy Shapiro)

Both Psychology and Recovery Services remain fully staffed. If members have any questions for Greg Tomasulo, please let Wendy know so that she may pass them along.

Quality Updates: (Joanna Stevens)

The Quality department is fully staffed. Joanna discussed the Quality Dashboard, please refer to the attached dashboard.

Q: With the census being as low as 6 hospitalized individuals is there a different way to share data?

A: We are required by both the Joint Commission and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to collect this data while following the acute care hospital guidelines. The calculations remain the same (even with low census) so that we are always consistent.

Q: Are we implementing the Six Core Strategies here and how is it implemented?

A: Prior to Joanna's time we had someone come and present on the Six Core Strategies, will investigate this and get response.

Q: Have there been people waiting in Emergency Rooms?

A: No, there are many other locations that accept level 1 acute hospitalized individuals. The DMH Care Management team would know even more but from our lens we don't see folks waiting in the ER.

Round Table Discussion: (All Members)

Q: Extensive work done to patient handbook in these meetings, was that ever implemented?

A: Yes, the updated version is on our website. Additionally, to the copies given during an admission there are copies of this in the library.

Rhonda Prensky: We have an open advocate position and are actively looking. Need to make sure that we have the right fit, Rhonda is usually in Southern Vermont. Hopeful that there will be a new advocate eventually joining these meetings.

*If members have questions between now and the next meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to Wendy.Shapiro@vermont.gov. *