

**Intellectual Disability Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board  
Meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

Room C, DHS Building, 2100 Washington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204

The meeting was called to order by CSB member and committee co-chair Carol Skelly.

**Introductions** – Carol Skelly, co-chair; members and guests Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Donna Budway, Lucia Claster, Ann Kelly, Moira Saucedo, Alex Soroko, Cherie Takemoto, Nancy Tishman, Alex Yellin, and Casey Youman; provider staff representatives Anne Rule of Community Residences, Sidney Johnson of Job Discovery Inc, Michelle Brownlee of Linden Resources, April Pinch-Keeler of MVLE, and Kaleigha Gray of ServiceSource; Linda Saiidifar of Arlington Public Schools; Joanna Wise Barnes of Developmental Disability Services

**Approval of May Minutes** – The minutes were distributed and reviewed, and approved as drafted by committee members. They will now be submitted to the Community Services Board at its next full meeting.

**The Arc of Northern Virginia** – Lucy Beadnell distributed and discussed a hand-out titled The Arc of Northern Virginia’s June 2015 Legislative Update, attached. Beadnell stated that she would follow up with a link to questionnaires about disability issues, completed by some candidates for public office. Here is the link provided by Beadnell on June 4<sup>th</sup>: <http://www.thearcofnova.org/advocacy/7226-2/>. Beadnell’s discussion of Virginia’s system transformation led to a discussion among parents and providers about the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment, to be used to justify funding levels for Waiver services. Some had attended a training session for SIS respondents, and there was discussion about having a State representative provide the same training at a future ID committee meeting.

**State Legislative Priorities** – Committee members mentioned the need for a higher Northern Virginia Waiver rate differential, and decided to use at least three sources of information to select legislative priorities for the January 2016 General Assembly Session – to be reviewed during future meetings.

1. Priorities to be determined and published by the VA Association of CSBs
2. The Fairfax County 2015 Human Services Issue Paper, to be provided by Lucy Beadnell
3. Priorities to be determined by vaACCSES at its upcoming conference, to be provided by April Pinch-Keeler

**Arlington Public Schools Career Center Program Changes** – Linda Saiidifar and Lucia Claster

Two hand-outs about the APS Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP) were distributed; see attached. The PEP program is ending its first year of operation and it has gone well. The program replaced two – SWAT and EBCE – and offers a continuum of three levels of supports to students (considerable, medium, and fairly independent). Those who need medium supports constitute the largest group. Students can move between and among the three tiers as needed to build toward their highest level of independence. The program broadened to serve not just students with cognitive disabilities but those with all types of disabilities. It focuses not only on the development of employment skills but also social, technical (office skills) daily living skills that apply to job readiness, and travel training. PEP offers on and off-site internships to students with varying levels of supervision. Of the 48 work sites

now available for the all of APS student interns throughout the county, the majority are utilized by PEP. Several work sites provide internship opportunities to more than one APS school or program.

Authentic work experiences are in diverse areas which include, but are not limited to culinary, horticulture, office work, carpentry, engine repair, etc. The primary goal is to provide students with skills that will increase their likelihood of not only obtaining but maintaining employment as adults. An integrated connection within the wider school community, especially with APR Career and Technical Education, has been established and continues to grow. PEP staff partner with CSB and DARS staff representatives to provide transition supports to students, who choose their own skills training areas. Each student leaves the program with a flash drive containing his or her skills portfolio. There are approximately 45 students now, 14 of whom are finishing and leaving this year. It is expected that twenty more will enter the program next year. PEP staff also work to educate employers with the hope of increasing their understanding and confidence in hiring persons with disabilities.

There was follow-up discussion about training students for jobs that exist in the community, and about how to encourage businesses to provide employment opportunities. The ID committee co-chair may contact CSB members and former CSB members who served on earlier iterations of workgroups created to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, to gauge interest in resurrecting such a workgroup.

#### **Schedule of Meetings 2015-2016 – Carol Skelly**

Committee members discussed a draft schedule which will be finalized and distributed soon. The dates, times, and locations for some upcoming meetings include **changes** indicated below.

July 8 (**second Wednesday**), 6:30 p.m., room **B** on the lower level of the DHS building

August – **No meeting**

September 10 (**second Thursday**), 6:30 p.m., Room **B** on the lower level of the DHS building

October 3 Housing Workshop (**first Saturday**), **9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.**, **Auditorium** on the lower level of the DHS building

#### **DDS Staff Updates – Joanna Wise Barnes**

- Vacant support coordination position has been filled; announcement of hire will be made soon.
- Management Analyst position was created and advertised for DDS; interviews will begin soon.
- La Voyce Reid will assume the position of DDS Bureau Chief on June 18 and hopes to attend the July 8 ID committee meeting.
- Joanna Wise Barnes will continue for now as the staff liaison to the ID committee, will help to orient new staff to the bureau, and will guide the development of new group homes in Arlington.

As requested, Joanna described support coordination to children.

- Three support coordinators are involved in serving children – one in the elementary schools, one in middle schools and high schools, and one during the final school year who helps students and their families plan the transition into DD Services and into contracted provider services.
- Most students receive monitoring services, requiring only an annual contacts. Sometimes this occurs during IEP meetings. For those on the urgent and non-urgent waiting lists for an ID Waiver slot, support coordinators make mandatory annual contacts to ensure continued eligibility for the ID

Waiver. Most receiving monitoring services have more than one contact per year with their support coordinator.

- Some students receive active or enhanced support coordination. This is required for those who have ID Waiver slots. It is offered to those on the waiting list for a slot, and to those who receive EDCD Waiver. Some students need and receive active support coordination; most do not need or want it. Those without Medicaid pay for support coordination on a sliding scale fee set by the CSB.

Joanna was asked about students who meet the criteria for and receive EDCD Waiver but whose parents say they have not met the eligibility criteria for either the ID or DD Waivers. Joanna encouraged the parent who raised this issue to ask the parents in question to call her directly. Joanna was asked how many students known to DDS receive the EDCD Waiver and Joanna indicated she would include the number in the minutes. (The number is 60.)

### **Provider Reports**

Michelle Brownlee of Linden Resources reported that their stakeholder meetings, discussed at last month's meeting, were well attended by employees and families. Now preliminary individual meetings have begun and are going well. One ID Waiver service recipient has a new job in the community. Two people are in the process of moving into community based positions. The transition away from sheltered employment is going well, and current employees seem excited about new possibilities. Michelle was asked to give an update at the ID committee's November 4 meeting, when the topic will be employment.

Anne Rule of Community Residences reported that residents of their Buchanan Gardens apartment program participated in the Earth Day clean-up of Four Mile Run.

April Pinch-Keeler reported that 1) MVLE partnered with the U.S. State Department to produce a video to be used overseas/internationally about how American implemented the Americans with Disabilities Act. Release of the video is expected soon, in time for July ADA celebration ceremonies. 2) MVLE will have two town hall meetings at their Fullerton Road and Chantilly sites to discuss their upcoming redesign. 3) MVLE's new Employment Director is Greg Bell. 4) MVLE's Employment Network at Embassy is to begin transitioning MVLE's supported employment model to part-time employment and full-time employment. The first position is in the laundry room. From there it will increase, adding more independence to a houseman/porter position, working in many areas of the hotel. Embassy Suites has also partnered with MVLE in developing two paid internships – one for military veterans and soon one for individuals with ID. Both are intended to increase job awareness in the hospitality industry. 5) MVLE's recent golf tournament/fund-raiser was a success.

### **New Business**

Ann Kelly stated that during an upcoming meeting she will share information about ServiceSource discussions regarding auto detailing employment opportunities, and the potential for opening a store in Arlington that would provide employment for people with developmental disabilities.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

**Approval of June Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed by the ID committee at its July 8, 2015 meeting. One addition was made. The corrected and approved minutes will be submitted to the Community Services Board at its July 15, 2015 meeting.