

Intellectual Disabilities Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board
Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
DHS Building, Sequoia Complex, 2100 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA 22204, Room B

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m., facilitated by CSB member and committee co-chair Barbara Jones.

Introductions – Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly, committee co-chairs and CSB members; committee members and guests Nancy Tishman and Kevin Youman; provider staff Michelle Lange of Linden Resources and Carrie Cortez of Volunteers of America; The Arc of Northern Virginia representative Lucy Beadnell; IDDS staff liaison Joanna Wise Barnes

Approval of February minutes – Those present reviewed and approved the minutes as drafted. The minutes will be submitted to the full CSB at its March 18, 2015 meeting.

The Arc of Northern Virginia – Lucy Beadnell reviewed the attached hand-out titled The Arc of Northern Virginia’s March 2015 Legislative Update. Lucy also encouraged everyone to visit their website for information about upcoming workshops and home tours: <http://www.thearcofnova.org/>

Proclamation Review – Barbara Jones described the March 3, 2015 event as successful. Three individuals who work in the auto detailing enclave at the Trades Center received awards and gift cards. Two MVLE employees were also honored – the enclave job coach and his supervisor. Arlington County Board Chair Mary Hynes read the proclamation, gave a speech, and handed out the certificates and awards. The Department of Environmental Services Equipment Bureau staff attendance and participation was excellent. Family members, group home residents and staff, and community friends were there to celebrate with the individuals receiving awards. Over 50 people attended; the ceremony was held in the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Center near Shirlington.

Waivers in Virginia – Lucy Beadnell and Joanna Wise Barnes

Public Comments on the Statewide Transition Plan related to the CMS Final Rule

See the attached hand-out distributed by Lucy Beadnell titled CMS Final Rule Basics. See the March 8, 2015 memorandum distributed by Joanna, subject *Public Comment – Transition Plan for the CMS HCBS Final Rule*.

Joanna described reviewing with some providers their responses to a self-assessment survey, some of which communicated to Virginia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) that resources such as additional staffing and vehicles would be needed to increase community integration for service recipients. Carrie Cortez commented that Volunteers of America’s management team has already begun preparing for discussions with DBHDS State Licensure Specialists about moving toward compliance with community integration expectations. Joanna indicated that DBHDS has communicated its awareness of resources needed for community integration, which the CMS implementation timeline of five years will help DBHDS identify, request, and allocate.

Waiver Redesign Updates

See two hand-outs from Lucy which she reviewed, titled Proposed Services for the Three I/DD Waivers and one that begins “1. Item 301 #6c.” See four hand-outs from Joanna – the first two from the DBHDS website and the third and fourth from the Virginia Network of Private Providers – titled *What You Need to Know Concerning Virginia’s I/DD Waiver Redesign, Waivers Redesign Strategy, Budget, and Instructions for Using SIS Scores to Determine “Levels of Support Needs” and “Rate Tiers.”*

Joanna shared Waiver redesign updates from the Virginia Assistant Commissioner of Developmental Services, from a February 27, 2015 meeting:

- DBHDS will report to the General Assembly on Waiver redesign before November 2015
- DBHDS is meeting bi-weekly with CMS about Waiver redesign
- DBHDS received over 300 public comments about Waiver redesign and will publish them soon
- The State’s new definition of DD will be rolled out in the new Waiver manuals after Waiver redesign has been approved
- Bridge funding and exceptional rates will be available to help providers for individuals who qualify, until new Waiver rates are in place
- GA approved \$16 million for rate increases in all of Virginia’s Waivers in July (some Waivers managed by DBHDS, others by DMAS)
- Waiver costs are 80% personnel-related, and the difference between wages in Northern Virginia vs. the rest of the State is between 17 and 19%
- DBHDS will request that the new Waivers include reimbursement for dental and non-Medicaid transportation services
- 55% of those on Waiver waiting lists are under 22 years old

IDDS Updates – Joanna Wise Barnes shared this information:

- There is one support coordinator vacancy, which will be advertised on March 20.
- More applicants were interviewed for the IDDS bureau chief’s position in anticipation of Joanna’s retirement; a private recruiting firm may be engaged to help find a replacement
- A Request for Proposals was issued on February 27, 2015 to solicit for group home development and operation. Responses are due March 31, 2015.
- See hand-out labeled *ID Residential Services in Arlington*. The residential services coordinator will attend the April 1, 2015 ID committee meeting and can answer questions about the hand-out then.
- Joanna shared a State hand-out titled *Funding Period One of the FY 2015 ISFP application process has been completed*. The bottom of the page contains contact information for the State’s family support program.
- One parent expressed a concern about IDDS specialized transportation services being suspended on days when Arlington Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. Joanna explained that the policy exists to protect the safety of riders. Points to consider:
 - Arlington Public Schools close fewer days than Fairfax Public Schools

- Vans are large rear-wheel drive vehicles without AWD or 4-wheel drive, and have as much difficulty safely navigating residential streets as school buses
- If riders were transported on days when weather predictions are questionable, there's a risk of programs closing early, requiring those day programs and the transportation provider to call families and group home staff to ensure someone is at home to receive riders as they are transported back home (in driving conditions that have deteriorated)
- If day programs are open on days with IDDS specialized transportation services are not operating, families may choose to transport individuals to those program sites and pick them up
- Another parent expressed concern that some day support providers operating in Fairfax County follow the Fairfax County Public Schools' inclement weather closing policy, which means they are closed more often, interfering with parents' work schedules. Joanna suggested that families may want to address day support programs' inclement weather policies directly with the providers.
- Joanna shared the following information from a February 27, 2015 meeting between Northern Virginia CSB executive directors, ID directors, and Connie Cochran, Virginia's Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Services:
 - The Regional Community Support Center (outpatient services) at NVTC is slated to move to the community by the end of 2015
 - A mobile rehabilitation engineering unit from a state facility should be in place in Northern Virginia in the coming months
- IDDS cooperative agreements with Arlington Public Schools and Virginia's Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services will be reviewed during the April or May ID committee meeting.
- The April 1 ID committee meeting will feature all program reviews by IDDS managers – support coordination, family support, residential services, employment and habilitation services, specialized transportation services, and mental health services for persons with ID and DD.

Approval of March Minutes – The draft minutes were reviewed by committee members at their April 1, 2015 meeting. At the request of Carol Skelly, Joanna Wise Barnes added the fourth bullet from the end on this page, above. The minutes were approved as revised. They will be submitted to the full CSB at its April 15, 2015 meeting.