

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

December 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS – Barbara Jones and Moira Saucedo, committee co-chairs and CSB members; Carol Skelly, CSB executive committee member; Brian DeAtley, CSB member; committee members and parents Chuck Atkins-Blanch, Ann M. Kelly, Russell Kelly, and Stephanie Sampson; vendor staff members Kaleigha Gray of CIC/ServiceSource, Lindsay Fenlon of Linden Resources, and Arthur Lerman of RIVA/Sunrise; The Arc of No VA staff member Rikki Epstein; County staff members Margaret Jones of PIE, Becky Suttell of TRO, and Joanna Wise Barnes of IDDS

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by co-chairs Barbara Jones and Moira Saucedo at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Draft minutes of the committee’s November 7, 2012 meeting were distributed, read, reviewed, and approved as written. Final copies of the minutes will be sent to the full CSB.

PARENT-INFANT EDUCATION (PIE) PROGRAM UPDATE – Margaret Jones, Program Coordinator

Ms. Jones distributed the PIE brochure and an *It’s time to speak up for kids!* hand-out from Voices for Virginia’s Children. She explained that the program receives federal funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and that State and County funds also support the program. Services are provided to children birth to three years of age with a developmental delay, diagnosis with a high risk of developmental delay, or atypical development - and to their families. All services are provided in the home or other community settings and are designed to support the child and family in typical routines and activities. PIE staff members help children and families transition to County IDD services and to Arlington Public School (APS) services when they age out of PIE. PIE and APS co-host an annual transition workshop each spring to support families in transition. Information is also provided to parent about the Arlington Special Education PTA. PIE has an Interagency Coordinating Council that meets monthly and is composed of representatives of programs serving young children and also includes an APS representative. All or most elementary schools have special needs pre-school programs. The number of two-year-old classes has increased over the past several years and most schools have classes for three to five-year-olds.

In Fiscal Year 2012 PIE served 554 children. PIE currently has 243 children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). In addition, approximately 40 children are in the intake and assessment process. Therapy services are provided by PIE staff and by therapists from one or more of 12 contract agencies. No fees are charged for assessments or service coordination. Therapy fees are billed on a sliding scale with a monthly cap. Insurance is billed first and then the family, and State and Federal Part C funds are used to pay for any balance. The frequency and number of therapy sessions vary based on a child’s needs and level of support needed by the family and may be increased or decreased as needs change.

PIE service coordinators also assist families by making referrals for pre-screenings for the Elderly or Disabled Consumer-Directed Waiver. They also work with IDDS staff members to place infants and toddlers on the waiting lists for the ID Waiver.

In response to questions, Ms. Jones explained that the intensive services provided through Applied Behavioral Analysis for children with autism isn't funded by Part C. Guidance from the State Part C office is that early interventions services are based on a coaching model with therapists providing parent training. Some insurance companies have begun to fund ABA. Two programs are applying for Part C and Medicaid certification – Achieve Beyond and Little Leaves.

Virginia has an eight million dollar short-fall in funding for Infant-Toddler Connection (ITC) programs, the State's name for these Part C programs. Some local programs have waiting lists; Arlington does not. PIE has been able to meet the 45 day timeline from referral to IFSP and also the 30 day timelines from IFSP to start of services. If there is a delay in the IFSP or start of services it has been because of a family scheduling preference and not because services are not available.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- **DBHDS Updates** – Joanna Wise Barnes
Committee members reviewed and discussed three related attachments – The October 29 Region 2 Congregate Residential Review to Assess Local Public Investment that was sent to Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner James Stewart, a November 15 draft letter from the Prince William CSB to Commissioner Stewart, and a November 21 letter from Commissioner Stewart to the No VA Regional Management Group (CSB executive directors).
- **The Arc of No VA Annual Meeting and DOJ Presentation and General Discussion** – Carol Skelly, Rikki Epstein, and committee members

Carol reviewed the DOJ presentation and her discussion after The Arc annual meeting with DOJ attorneys. Rikki announced that the first report from the independent reviewer of the agreement is due tomorrow, December 6, 2012. She stated that the DOJ and Judge Gibney are monitoring the implementation of the agreement, and stated that the guidelines for implementation are not set in stone. Carol stated that the State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has not rescinded the closure dates for training centers yet.

Carol suggested that a bridge loan is needed for funding to expand community services before training center discharges can proceed. She announced these next steps: She and others are meeting next week with DOJ attorneys to review the settlement agreement. She will be speaking with a Virginia Association of CSBs representative about the agreement. The Governor's budget is expected soon and she will review whether it includes funding for expanding community services. She and others will read the independent reviewer's first report on the agreement. After these steps are taken, a decision can be made by the committee about

whether to request more resources or to request a delay in training center closures. The committee's primary concern is for the families who want training center residents to return to Arlington when they discharge.

Rikki suggested that the closure dates help to keep the momentum of discharge alive. The implementation of the agreement should succeed. And there should be a balance between these two issues – success and timeliness. She recommended that discharges would benefit from outside the box thinking – options other than intermediate care facilities (ICFs) and group homes.

Ann Kelly suggested a bond issue in Arlington to provide funding, but Carol thought that the Fiscal Year 2014 budget would be too tight for this to succeed. Rikki opined that the Commissioner's letter to the region was positive except for the lack of funding in response to the region's request. Barbara Jones pointed out that there have been multiple requests for increases in ID Waiver rates throughout the years. Carol suggested that while supervised apartments and sponsored residential placements might be better than ICFs and group homes, their operating expenses are higher. Current Arlington ICFs have eight beds each. Vendors have stated that they may be able to operate with only six beds, but not four or five beds. The funding restraints are too great according to vendors.

- **Next Steps Related to the Settlement Agreement**

- Meeting next week with DOJ attorneys
- Speak with a Virginia Association of CSBs representative
- Read the Governor's budget when published to see whether it includes funding for expanding community services
- Read the independent reviewer's first report on the agreement, talk to him, and copy him on all correspondence
- Schedule next ID committee meeting for January 9 to review the above actions
- Decide whether to advise the CSB to sign the draft letter from the Prince William CSB to the Commissioner, to write a letter to the Commissioner from the Arlington CSB, or to do both
- Decide how to advocate with legislators before and during the General Assembly session
- Attend and participate in local (County) and regional (State) public budget hearings

- **Strategic Plan for Employment First in Virginia – Brian DeAtley and Joanna**

See this link for the full plan:

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-UsefullInformation.htm#empFirst>

This topic is addressed in section 7 of the settlement agreement. Brian reviewed the contents of the 59-page State plan. It discusses staff training, data collection, funding, goals, and follow-up. Data collection begins March 31, 2013. Outreach to businesses and training of direct support

professionals begin in September 2013. A training plan is due in October 2013. Policies and procedures are due in June 2014. Outreach to families and individuals will be ongoing. Moving from day support to group and individual supported employment will be addressed when Virginia submits its ID and DD Waiver plans for review to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2013 and 2014. The ultimate goal is to discontinue center-based services and to focus on employment instead.

- **Settlement Agreement Explainer** – Moira Saucedo

Moira suggested that committee members prepare a one-page explainer about the goals of the settlement agreement to address employment, housing, etc. The purpose would be to educate CSB members.

RESIDENTIAL VENDOR UPDATES ON EXPANDING HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Arthur Lerman of RIVA/Sunrise reported that his agency recently purchased a home in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. RIVA intends to operate it as a six-bed group home. They intend to open it in three to four months depending on permits and renovations.

RIVA has also responded to a Fairfax County Request for Proposals to operate three homes there – either as group homes or as intermediate care facilities.

RIVA continues to look for a home to purchase in Arlington County.

IDD PROCLAMATION PLANNING – Barbara Jones

The event will be on the morning of Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Barbara reported that IDDS will mail the proclamation documents very soon. There is about \$622 in an account from last year; other donations are expected. A meeting is pending with a National Science Foundation representative about the use of its atrium; Barbara and Joanna will attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Lindsay Fenlon distributed fliers about Linden Resources' upcoming December 7 Miracle on 23rd Street.

The next meeting will be on January 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in room A on the lower level of the DHS building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved these minutes as written at its January 9, 2013 meeting. The minutes will be submitted to the full CSB at its next meeting.