

## Intellectual Disability Committee of the Arlington Community Services Board

### Minutes of Meeting on May 9, 2012

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Co-Chair Carol Skelly

**Introductions** – Committee Co-Chairs Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly; CSB Member Dave O'Connor; Co-Chair Elect Moira Saucedo; Committee Member and Parents Chuck Adkins-Blanch and Alex Yellin; IDDS Vendor Staff Members Pat Vinson of Job Discovery Inc., Lindsay Lamb of Linden Resources, and Kaleigha Gray of the ServiceSource CIC; IDDS Staff Members Jennifer McKinney Acheson, Don Conley, and Joanna Wise Barnes

**Approval of Minutes** – The draft minutes of the April 4, 2012 meeting were approved as written and will be submitted to the full CSB.

#### IDDS Program Reviews

##### **Supported Employment, Habilitation, and Transportation** – Don Conley

Don reviewed these two sections of the document titled *CSB Program Review, Committee Name: ID*. See attachment to minutes. He also reviewed five other documents with supplemental information:

- *Arlington County ID/DD Services' Contracted Vocational Providers*
- *Employment Services/Habilitation Services*
- *Listing of Supported Employment and Habilitation Sites by Vendors*
- *Commonwealth of Virginia Certificate of Recognition – Employment First Initiative*
- *Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Draft Policy – Employment First*

Don mentioned that the State's employment first initiative will be addressed at the October 21 and 22, 2012 Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach. Committee members expressed an interest in developing more group supported employment enclaves in Arlington. Members also asked about the number of individuals receiving each service. The answer given was that 118 receive habilitation services, 19 are in sheltered employment, 35 are in group supported employment, and 18 receive individual supported employment. Don also shared some accomplishments for FY12: Continued use of Community Integration Center participants to stuff envelopes (paid work), using Linden Resources for more printing jobs, development of a housekeeping enclave at the Mary Marshall ALR with a second enclave underway, following up on County Board Chair Mary Hughes Hynes's idea about a plaque to recognize employers who hire people with disabilities. Committee members were encouraged to shop for Mother's Day at the Woodmont Weavers, at St. Coletta's in Alexandria, and at Giant Stores for potpourri made at MVLE, Inc.

There was considerable discussion about the feasibility of the employment first initiative by members and guests. Points made include:

- Networking is the best way to develop job opportunities for individuals
- Upper management within the hiring organization needs to be supportive
- There hasn't been much increase in employment opportunities for people with disabilities over the past 25 years
- The on-line application process is making it more challenging for job developers to get interviews for persons with disabilities
- Federal government cuts are negatively impacting group and individual supported employment possibilities
- Would government subsidies to employers increase opportunities for applicants with disabilities?
- Could County contracts include a financial award to contract agencies that hire persons with disabilities?
- Some individuals say they prefer sheltered employment and group supported employment to individual placements

#### **Residential Services – Jennifer McKinney Acheson**

Jennifer reviewed this section of the *CSB Program Review, Committee Name: ID* document. Jennifer also reported that 75% of residential needs surveys mailed have been completed and returned. Having prioritized sending them to older individuals first, she continues to mail them to younger persons. Those now waiting for residential services include none for in-home supports, one waiting for a supervised apartment, seven waiting for group homes (of those four are being assessed now and three are not quite ready), and seven waiting for intermediate care facilities (ICFs). This seven does not include training center residents who need ICFs.

Other residential news shared was that seven of our 10 residential providers attended the May 8, 2012 forum with the Community Housing and Planning Department and the Department of Environmental Services. They learned about loans available for purchase and renovation of homes, and about zoning and permitting procedures in Arlington. CHPD reported that 9.5 million is available for loans, an increase over earlier years. Last, Jennifer reported that she will attend the NVTC provider fair; Joanna has mailed letters to all training center families encouraging them to attend.

#### **Department of Justice Settlement Agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia – Joanna Wise Barnes**

Joanna reported that Arlington continues to have 25 residents in NVTC and nine in CVTC. We estimate that we will need five six-bed ICFs and one five-bed group home to serve them. IDDS continue to collaborate with NVTC on discharge planning via monthly meetings, and we also attend meetings for individuals there. Tentatively we need to discharge seven people by June 30, 2013; seven by June 30,

2014; and 11 by June 30, 2015. Those discharges will of course be contingent on community capacity. Arlington is currently working on discharging two NVTC residents to current openings. The regional RFI will be sent to vendors very soon, and will have a short turnaround. Information from RFI responses will help the region's executive directors and ID directors to develop a business plan about resources needed to support discharges.

Other actions related to the agreement include Easter Seal/United Cerebral Palsy beginning to orient emergency services staff and others in the region about the pending crisis intervention and stabilization program; new State training for support coordinators; the April 25 meeting for providers during which DBHDS staff explained the agreement to providers; and the May 3 Developmental Services Council meeting reports about the successful down-sizing efforts at CVTC and SSVTC. Joanna reported that IDDS has tested NVTC's report that we have access to client files there; we do. On May 18 Heidi Dix of DBHDS will meet with ID directors to explain a new State discharge process.

#### **Transition Council Updates – Joanna Wise Barnes**

Joanna reported that hiring for the assistant superintendent's position will be completed soon, and filling the special education director's position will follow. And two additional transition coordinators will be hired by APS for the 2012-13 school year, bringing the total to four.

#### **New Business**

There was a discussion about allegations of abuse and neglect in training centers by the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy (VOPA). Because IDDS is unable to receive incident reports from training centers, IDDS staff members continue to review files of residents there to discern whether any Arlington residents were subject to any of the alleged abuse or neglect.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

These minutes were approved by committee members as written at their meeting on June 6, 2012.