

Intellectual Disabilities Committee of the Arlington Community Services Board

Minutes for Meeting on July 11, 2012

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Committee Co-Chair Barbara Jones

Introductions: Barbara Jones and Moira Saucedo, Co-Chairs; committee members and families Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Donna Budway, Peter Black, Gay Harrington, David O'Connor, Carol Skelly, Alexander Soroko, Alex Yellin, and Casey Youman; provider staff members Anne Rule of Community Residences, Lindsay Lamb of Linden Resources, Kenan Aden of MVLE, and Brenda Richardson of ServiceSource; The Arc of Northern Virginia staff member Lucy Beadnell; IDDS staff member/committee liaison Joanna Wise Barnes

Approval of minutes: Committee members reviewed the draft minutes and hand-outs from their June 6, 2012 meeting. The minutes were approved as read and will be submitted to the full CSB for their September meeting packets.

Department of Justice Settlement Agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia

Joanna Wise Barnes distributed four hand-outs (see attached):

- *Department of Justice Settlement Agreement and Impact for Individuals with Severe Disabilities and Communities* which was submitted to U.S. District Judge John A. Gibney, Jr. by Mary Ann Bergeron, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)
- Two June 8, 2012 articles from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* – *Emptying training centers sparks pivotal hearing today in federal court*, and *Judge backs deal that includes added protections*
- A motion to intervene in the settlement agreement filed July 3, 2012 by Peggy Wood et al (families of 13 training center residents)

Joanna reported that the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) hosted a state-wide stakeholders meeting about the settlement agreement on July 9, 2012. Minutes from the meeting are pending from DBHDS and will be distributed at the committee's next meeting. Concerns discussed on July 9 included ID Waiver rates, and it was reportedly announced that proposals from DBHDS about changes in ID Waiver rates may be published this summer. Meeting attendees reported that Judge Gibney will announce changes to the settlement agreement on July 17.

On June 22, 2012 there was a regional stakeholders' meeting in Fairfax about the settlement agreement. Joanna, Barbara Jones, David O'Connor, and Lucy Beadnell attended and talked about it. At the end of that June meeting, there was discussion about forming workgroups related to five topics, which would report back to the larger stakeholders' group quarterly. Joanna stated that the ID Directors for No VA discussed later that forums on each of the five topics might be better than workgroups. Much information is already available, and more information will be assimilated via Request for Information (RFI) responses recently received from providers.

Joanna reported that No VA ID Directors and others have met twice to review RFI responses from residential providers and from habilitation/supported employment providers. The goal of ID Directors is to give information to regional CSB Executive Directors by the end of July so that a business plan can be sent to the DBHDS. The business plan would specify what resources are needed in No VA to build community capacity for training center discharges.

The ID committee seemed to achieve consensus around the idea of a specific alternative to regional workgroups or forums. Instead, the ID Directors and Executive Directors could develop an advocacy platform. The platform could be based on the business plan and other issues. Examples might be the reforms to ID Waiver rates and structure that were recommended to the General Assembly by the No VA CSBs already. The ID committee suggested that this advocacy platform could be presented to the regional stakeholders' group before it is sent to DBHDS.

Joanna followed up on three issues raised earlier by the ID committee which are related to the settlement agreement. 1) We had been told that a report about the State trust fund was due to the General Assembly on July 1, and that it would be available to us after that. Instead the DBHDS stated this week that the report is being reviewed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and that we will receive it when it is released to the public. 2) Submission of the ID and DD Waiver plan changes by DBHDS to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is on track for 2013 and 2014. Dates are not available yet for public review of those plan revisions. 3) Joanna and another IDDS staff member did spend time reading resident files at Northern VA Training Center. It takes about two hours to read the two years of information available for each resident. Six files have been read so far. No significantly adverse incidents have been found in those read to date.

ID Committee's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Recommendations

Barbara Jones explained that the executive committee of the CSB will meet on September 10 to discuss initial budget recommendations for all three disability areas, and that the full CSB will consider these at its meeting on September 19. Barbara reminded committee members that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 request for funding of a van route to an IDDS day support program was successful. She reported reviewing requests from earlier years that had not succeeded, and did not find them to be relevant for FY14. Committee members were asked for ideas to propose for FY14; they responded with the following suggestions:

- Every year the County has unspent funds. A portion of these could be allocated to housing needs annually, perhaps to create one new residence each year.
- Is start-up funding needed for the two Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) which were identified as the most significant unmet residential need? (Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development may have loans available to non-profits that develop new ICFs. Also, the State is going to apply for HUD 811 funds which may benefit non-profits that develop new group homes and ICFs; details are pending. And some residential providers are partnering with Scioto Housing, a company that purchases properties, modifies them to meet the needs of people with disabilities, and then rents or sells them back to provider agencies.)
- The settlement agreement may give the CSB a reason to rally around IDD housing needs this year.

- Perhaps the County's first-time home-buyers program could be made available to parents who create micro-boards to provide housing for adult children with disabilities. Could housing specialist Pam Gannon research this
- Group homes and ICFs may need funding for new furniture, additional bathrooms, structural improvements, and for improving accessibility. The committee wants to know what each home needs. (Arlington's Department of Community Housing, Planning and Development might have funds that could be used for these expenses. This will be explored. Grants might also be available for this.) A committee member suggested two to three smaller meetings to review group home needs and any standards that exist for group homes.
- An update of the large spreadsheet created by IDDS about residential services, and updates about responses to the residential needs survey were requested for the September 5 meeting.
- What incentives or assistance do vocational providers need to develop new enclaves in Arlington Would funding for more job developers help A set-aside to create more enclaves within the County was discussed. (One view was that it's easier to get financial donations than it is to get positions and hires from private employers in the current economy, and that funding priorities might better be devoted to residential needs.)
- In response to questions about June 2013 special education graduates to be served in FY1 , Joanna stated that there are 15 special education students leaving school next June. One has an ID Waiver slot which will fund day support services. Fourteen other students will also need day support, sheltered employment, and group or individual supported employment.
- A committee member recommended asking for two additional IDDS support coordinators in FY1 .

Upcoming Meetings

The committee will not meet in August.

At the next meeting on September 5th, CSB member Keith Whyte will make a presentation about the CSB's communications and employment committee. Barbara Jones will send committee members a letter from Keith Whyte that describes that committee's work. Another topic of the September 5th meeting will be a winnowing of FY1 budget priorities.

Later in the fall, the ID committee may want to host a presentation for families about the regional START program (*Systemic Therapeutic Assessment, Respite and Treatment*). This new No VA program continues to hire and train staff for crisis prevention and intervention services for adults with IDD.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Barbara Jones at 8: 5 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

These minutes were approved as submitted and as read by the committee at its September 5, 2012 meeting.

