



**The Arlington Community Services Board**  
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**Carol Skelly**  
Chairperson

**Cynthia Kemp**  
Executive Director

**January 18, 2012**  
**Department of Human Services – Sequoia Building**  
**2100 Washington Boulevard**  
**Arlington, Virginia**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Carol Skelly, Barbara Jones, Naomi Verdugo, Cynthia Fagnoni, Anne Hermann, James Mack, Judith Deane, David Kidwell, Barry Gale, Brian Berke, Jenette O’Keefe

**Members Excused:** David O’Connor, Scott Brannon, Linda Kelleher, Keith Whyte, Bharati Patel

**Staff Present:** Cynthia Kemp, Farah Shakour, Michael Peter, Daniel Byrne, Joe Bullock, Joanna Wise Barnes, Joan Planell, Heather Carter-Stowe

**Public Comment (s):**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of the December 21, 2011 Minutes:**

ACCSB Chair Skelly called for the approval of the December 21, 2011 minutes. Mr. Mack noted a change on the second page, third paragraph, second sentence under the section on drug courts. It should read: “Mr. Mack cautioned that Chief Circuit Judge Newman stated that a Drug Court is conditioned on filling vacant and soon-to-occur judicial vacancies.” Mr. Gale motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Deane seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with one correction.

**CSB Staff Recognition Award (s):**

The January staff recognition award was presented to Chau Nguyen, Mental Health Bureau Therapist / Case Manager. Carol Sacks, Mental Health Bureau, Team B Supervisor nominated Ms. Nguyen and commented that Ms. Nguyen is an invaluable employee who consistently goes the extra mile for her clients. She stated she is always on top of her paperwork and is available to act as an interpreter when needed with Vietnamese clients. Ms. Nguyen said that without this job at the County, she would not be the person she is today. She said that as a result of her job, she is able to help people in unfortunate circumstances in the County. Chair Skelly thanked Ms. Nguyen and conferred the award.

**Presentation - Arlington Juvenile Justice Committee:**

Chair Skelly introduced Joan Planell, Deputy Director of the Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS) and Heather Carter-Stowe, Division Chief of the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD), DHS who presented information on the work of the Arlington Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC).

Ms. Planell stated that the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) began eighteen months ago and represents a multi-disciplinary group of members including the Police Department, Juvenile Court, Schools, DHS, parents, the Public Defender, community organizations and service providers. (*Refer to Handout*). Ms. Planell stated that Valerie Cuffee formerly led the group and has recently retired. Heather Carter-Stowe will lead the JJC beginning this month.

Ms. Planell stated that the primary purpose of the JJC is to divert children with mental illness and substance abuse issues from unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system and the secondary purpose is to identify gaps in the system of care and advocate for services as necessary. Ms. Planell stated that in order to accomplish these goals, the JJC consulted with Leslie Weisman, the Bureau Chief for Emergency Services and a state consultant for mapping systems related to criminal justice agencies, to develop a list of outcome goals as follows:

- A Parent Information Hub – A website has been developed
- Crisis Stabilization Proposal – A regional proposal was developed by staff in Northern Virginia with Arlington taking the lead. The proposal includes a 24-hour mobile crisis stabilization team as well as a facility respite program. The proposal has gained a lot of attention and Ms. Kemp noted that the work of the JJC on this proposal has led to advocacy at the state level and subsequently the Governor added a budget amendment for \$500,000 for two mobile crisis stabilization teams in the state.

Ms. Planell noted that the JJC supported the CSB's request for FTEs to address children's issues and the Second Chance Program. Priorities have been developed and focus on three areas to divert children with mental health and substance abuse issues from the criminal justice system: 1) Integrated Services; 2) Stakeholder Buy-in and Support; and 3) CHINS – Children in Need of Supervision. Ms. Carter-Stowe explained that integrated services focuses on ensuring an integrated approach among schools, DHS, courts and the public, sharing a common practice for outreach, early assessment and treatment. Stakeholder buy-in and support focuses on engaging and obtaining buy-in from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) judges and other stakeholders. CHINS focuses on educating parents about alternatives to court involvement. Ms. Verdugo added that the CHINS service is critical, as it helps parents understand that there is not a need to go through the court system in order to access services. Ms. Verdugo stated that once the court becomes involved, the families lose control over the outcome and the court orders may not be therapeutic. Ms. Carter-Stowe noted that a Mental Health Therapist has been placed at the court who serves as a liaison who intervenes prior to the child seeing a judge in order to obtain services and who diverts children from the juvenile justice system and into treatment after seeing a judge. This position was obtained through CSB advocacy.

Ms. Carter-Stowe noted that the committee also focuses on courts relations and helps to build amicable working relationships between the judges and the families. Chair Skelly asked if the mental health therapist at the court is able to divert children from the CHINS system. Ms. Carter-Stowe responded that children meet with the mental health therapist prior to seeing the judge when a mental health or substance abuse issue is suspected or determined with the goal of diverting the child/adolescent whenever possible. The exception is when there is a serious criminal offense involved. At that point, there is less that can be done to divert the child. Ms. Carter-Stowe stated that the successes are being tracked.

Ms. Verdugo asked if a crisis stabilization facility can be funded by a Human Services Bond since the facility in Fairfax is largely too full to accommodate Arlington's referrals. Chair Skelly suggested that this be discussed and explored further in the Executive Committee.

Chair Skelly asked what is available now through the currently available crisis stabilization services. Ms. Kemp responded that assessment is currently provided by Emergency Services and that the mental health therapists in this unit work with the families and the child/adolescent to make a determination about whether the child/adolescent needs hospitalization. If the child/adolescent needs ongoing treatment and/or case management the staff in emergency services will make a referral to the Behavioral Healthcare Unit in the Child and Family

Services Division. Chair Skelly clarified that after business hours, families currently have the options of calling the police or enlisting the aid of Emergency Services. Captain Berke stated that one of the goals of the police department is to train CIT officers in specialized children's training.

Mr. Mack asked for clarification between the two crisis stabilization services. Ms. Planell stated that one service is for a regional crisis stabilization facility / respite home that would be used instead of sending children to a hospital. The second service is for a mobile crisis stabilization team that visits the home and provides wrap-around services in the home if this is determined to be safe. Ms. Carter-Stowe added that mobile crisis stabilization is often the most effective service, because the families are able to stay unified and receive help de-escalating the situation and learning new crisis skills. Ms. Verdugo added that the families are also linked to services and that sometimes when children are removed from homes, they are placed in detention due to the lack of treatment slots available. Ms. Carter-Stowe said that this model also decreases the number of police interventions and calls needed. Ms. Kemp stated that this model has been successful around the country.

Mr. Gale asked if the proposal is finalized. Ms. Planell responded that it is finalized, but if a funding opportunity becomes available, more detail will need to be added.

Chair Skelly asked if the pilot programs are likely to be approved. Ms. Verdugo stated that it may not be likely. Ms. Kemp added that the Governor added a budget amendment for a total of \$500,000 for two programs within the state. Ms. Planell stated that this amount would not be sufficient for the region; however, it would be good for the County. Ms. Planell also stated that Arlington's number served may be too low to be competitive on its own, so partnership with another jurisdiction may be beneficial.

#### **ACCSB Executive Director's Report:**

ACCSB Executive Director Cynthia Kemp reported the following:

- Ms. Kemp reminded the Members that the Financial Disclosure Forms were due on January 15, 2012 to the County Board Office and blank copies are available today if needed.
- Ms. Kemp distributed and reviewed the VACSB's budget amendment document which lists all budget amendments that pertain to the CSBs. She noted that this document focuses on statewide issues. She stated that two priorities are missing from the document. The first, the Governor's executive budget amendment for the two crisis teams, is not listed, because the document was created before the governor's amendment was released. The priority to restore the 19 regional beds at Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute is also not on the document because it is a regional – not statewide issue. Ms. Kemp stated that Senator Black and Delegate Hugo did submit amendments to restore the 19 beds in the region and many legislators are signing on to the amendments. Chair Skelly asked Ms. Kemp to find out more details about the budget amendment for the 20% differential rate for small congregate residential homes for people with intellectual disabilities submitted by Delegate Hope. Ms. Kemp will report back with information.
- Ms. Kemp stated that there were no reductions proposed for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Other departments were reduced that will affect CSBs somewhat, such as the Department of Rehabilitative Services. Ms. Wise Barnes noted that the changes in LTESS (Long Term Employment Support Services) funding will affect people receiving ID services as well.
- Ms. Kemp reviewed the data on the Group Home Report with the Board Members (*Refer to Handout*). She reported that there was one incident due to bed bugs. She also noted that there were two deaths in January in ID group homes that will be discussed next month, because the deaths occurred in January. She stated that all deaths and suicides are reviewed internally in the Health and Safety Committee as a

quality assurance measure. All deaths and suicide attempts are also reported to licensing for their review.

- Ms. Kemp distributed the financial report for December (*Refer to Packet*). She stated that the revenue is at 37% out of a target of 41%. Ms. Kemp stated that billing has been suspended in order to comply with new federal HIPPA regulations, so January and February revenues will be much lower than average and will rebound once billing resumes.
- Ms. Kemp distributed copies of the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence (MMALR) report. She noted that a column has been added per the CSBs request, citing the number of viable current applicants (45). This number is inclusive of the 18 already admitted and 7 more are needed to be at full capacity if all applicants are admitted.
- Ms. Kemp passed a card around from one of the adolescents that received Secret Santa gifts from the CSB Members.
- Ms. Kemp asked Ms. Carter-Stowe to give an update on the Action Plan for Children's Behavioral Healthcare (*Refer to Handout*). Ms. Carter-Stowe reported that all staff has been trained on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and will be trained tomorrow on the remainder of compliance issues. She stated that she is working with the Innovations Institute to implement the remaining evidence-based best practices training. Ms. Carter-Stowe informed the CSB members that Mr. Byrne is currently conducting case reviews. Ms. Carter-Stowe said that she is working with contractors on home-based services quality and outcomes. Ms. Verdugo stated she is very proud of Arlington for implementing the necessary changes to improve children's services. Ms. Verdugo has asked Mr. Byrne for talking points to use when discussing Arlington's children's services and advocating for funding. Ms. Carter-Stowe thanked Ms. Verdugo for her work on improving children's services in Arlington.
- Ms. Kemp reminded the CSB members that in case of inclement weather, the meetings are cancelled if the County closes. The meeting may also be cancelled at the Chairs discretion, so she asked that people check their email if they are unsure if a meeting is still being held.

#### **ACCSB Chair's Report:**

ACCSB Chair Carol Skelly reported the following:

- Chair Skelly stated that Shauna Alonge is slated to be approved at next week's County Board meeting and that the County Board liaison to the CSB is still being determined.
- Chair Skelly stated that there will be heavy local budget advocacy occurring in the next few weeks. The Executive Committee will review an easy to read, formatted budget document at their February meeting. Chair Skelly announced that the meetings with the County Board will occur on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (Mr. Fissette and Ms. Hynes) and 11:00 a.m. (Mr. Tejada and Mr. Zimmerman). CSB Members interested in attending should contact Chair Skelly. There will be limited seating for participation. The CSB will also attempt to arrange a meeting with the winner of the Democratic Caucus to present the budget priorities.
- Chair Skelly stated that several CSB Members spoke at the January 4, 2012 local General Assembly delegation public hearing and that a follow up letter to the state delegation will be issued. Chair Skelly stated that Ms. Wise Barnes has determined that no Arlington clients will lose eligibility for waiver services should the proposed legislation to reduce SSI eligibility from 300% of SSI to 250% pass.

- Chair Skelly informed the members that, at Ms. Verdugo's request, a letter was issued to the Arlington County Schools Superintendent expressing the CSB's desire for the Superintendent to ensure that all teachers, not just Special Education teachers, are trained to work with children with mental illness and serious emotional disturbance and that the two vacancies for Assistant Superintendent positions are appropriately filled in order to best serve these children (*Refer to Handout*). Mr. Mack added that NAMI-Arlington is issuing a similar letter and is focusing on ensuring that these children receive the maximal learning experience possible through a reorganization of responsibilities for this population under the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction rather than the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.
- Chair Skelly announced the upcoming Democratic Caucus dates tomorrow 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School and Saturday 11 a.m. -12 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School. Attendees who wish to vote will be asked to sign a pledge that they will vote Democratic in the election.
- Chair Skelly reported out on the meeting that several CSB Members (Barbara Jones, Judith Deane, Cindy Fagnoni) had on Communications and Community Outreach to determine whether or not this will become a permanent initiative. The staff that participated were Jose Campos, Don Conley and Farah Shakour. The action steps were to outreach to parents who have children who may become involved with the juvenile justice system (CHINS children). This outreach will be handled through the Child and Youth Committee, perhaps with the involvement of Kurt Larrick. Chair Skelly will contact the Chamber of Commerce to make a presentation at their monthly breakfast to elicit employment opportunities for CSB clients. This would be the initial contact and the professionals, Jose Campos and Don Conley, would follow up with detailed information. There will be outreach to the Employment Center and Economic Development to coordinate new employment opportunities for CSB clients. There will be an exploration of opportunities for enclave employment for ID clients and some Clarendon House clients. Mr. Campos and Mr. Conley will be copied on any communications about this initiative. There will be efforts to receive press coverage for significant CSB-related events, possibly with the aid of Kurt Larrick as a liaison to the press. There will be efforts to establish relationships between the CSB and other like-minded groups in Arlington. The follow-up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Drewry, Room 107. Ms. Shakour will follow up with Kurt Larrick to invite him to the next meeting.
- Chair Skelly asked Mr. Mack to report out on a meeting he attended with an affordable housing group with Delegate Patrick Hope and affordable housing advocates. Mr. Mack stated that the group agreed that Delegate Hope would draft a resolution calling on the County Board to fund a study to examine the inventory of County-owned land and properties (by Fall 2013) in order to create the 5,000 affordable housing units that the County had previously set as a goal through a bond (to be submitted to the public on the ballot by 2014). Mr. Mack explained that Arlington County does not own its own public housing, but rather gives incentives to private developers to set-aside affordable units. Chair Skelly added that the CSB asked that language be added to this resolution to provide additional affordably-priced space for human services delivery. Chair Skelly noted that perhaps this type of space could be used for purposes such as a children's crisis stabilization facility.
- Regarding Drug Courts, Mr. Mack stated that a state delegation has convened to discuss Drug Courts. The Public Defender's Office has submitted a list of crimes that would be suitable to be adjudicated in a Drug Court to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Mr. Gale asked when the Drug Court will be implemented. Mr. Mack stated that the goal is to have a meeting of all the stakeholders in March, pending Judge Newman's approval. He stated that the Drug Court application process involves approval by the state Supreme Court and the House of Delegates and will take some time to complete. Mr. Gale

asked for the target start date. Mr. Mack replied that by the end of March, there will be a final draft of the application. He said that it will be a long process.

**Informational Items:**

- Ms. Verdugo announced that on January 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., NAMI, DHS and Arlington Public Schools are sponsoring a forum on resources for children and families. Mr. Byrne will send Ms. Kemp a flyer for distribution.

The Arlington Community Services Board meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Farah Shakour