

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Mental Health Committee

February 27, 2013

Approved 3/27/13

Committee Members Present: Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Tom Quinn, Richard Smith, Susan Lowry, Brian Berke, Sam Howlett, Cindy Fagnoni, John Blount

Committee Members Absent: Kathy Donovan, James Bradshaw, Caroline Bragdon, Scott Brannon, Betsy Greer

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, PhD, Rebecca Wright, Clarendon House Program Manager

Public Observers: Alice Straker, Chuck Bender

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the January minutes without correction.

Presentation: Ms. Wright gave an overview of the Clarendon House Program Development Plan. She described how planning is aimed at “modernizing” the Clarendon House program, by moving from a modified clubhouse model to a psychosocial rehabilitation day program model incorporating psychoeducational groups and other evidence-based services in response to client needs. She distributed and described the following; the action plan; the functional assessment rating scale and results for 91 clients; and a template for needed psychoeducation in response to functional skill-development needs. After a good deal of preparation and discussion with stakeholders, planning is now at the point of requesting funds to contract for the food and maintenance services, to free staff time for programming. A proposal to contract with GMU for consultation and training in curriculum development and evidence-based educational methods has already been approved. The timing of these actions will depend on the timing of approved proposals. Some questions raised by Committee members and answered related to serving people so far un-served, the usefulness of PRS curriculum, and if the goal of the modified program was for clients to “move on”.

MH Director’s Report: Dr. Orenstein distributed handouts from the joint meeting with the SA Committee, for members who were not able to attend. As requested by the Chair, he reviewed the Extended Barriers List (EBL). Historically, the number of clients on the EBL varied from 9 to 12 since July 2011. As of 2/20/13, there were 6 on the list, due to the placement efforts of Ms. Weisman and her staff. The major barriers were: NGRI and waiting for conditional release (1 client), waiting for supported housing (2 clients), and in the process of arranging specialized residences via contract (3 clients). In response to a question from Ms. Deane, Dr. Orenstein described the number of additional case managers needed to return to serving non-SMI service applicants. Since we served 100-120 for a number of years until July 2012, it can be estimated that about 3 FTEs would be required (at a standard of about 32:1). Also, the 3 young adult case managers’ caseloads exceed the 25:1 standard, requiring about .5 FTEs to bring their caseloads to standard. Finally, Dr. Orenstein reviewed the budget reductions proposed by the County Manager: \$50,000 in supported employment and education contract funding and \$32,000 in contracted sheltered work funding.

Chairs’ Report: Ms. Deane reported that she and others visited the VHC’s psychiatric and SA units. She noted the psychiatric was below ground and without windows, and there was no reported wait for beds.

In light of an upcoming Executive Committee budget discussion, Ms. Deane and MS. Hermann led a discussion on the Committee's priorities. An option noted by Ms. Deane was: to advocate for the restoration of proposed employment services reductions, continue the one-time employment service funding, and add staff to serve non-SMI service applicants. With respect to the impact on the CIT staffing item in the original Committee priorities list, Mr. Berke confirmed this would not become an issue until FY15 when the grant ends. Mr. Berke asked if it had to be 3 added staff to serve non-SMI clients or none, and Dr. Orenstein indicated it did not. After discussion, there appeared to be consensus as to the priorities: restoring the proposed supported employment reductions, continuation of the one-time funding for employment services and the addition of staff to serve non-SMI clients.

Announcements: Mr. Howlett noted that he had prospects for new Board members.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.