



The Arlington Community Services Board
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Carol Skelly
Chairperson

Cynthia Kemp
Executive Director

March 21, 2012
Department of Human Services – Sequoia Building
2100 Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Carol Skelly, Barbara Jones, Anne Hermann, James Mack, Judith Deane, Barry Gale, Jenette O’Keefe, Scott Brannon, Shauna Alonge, David Kidwell, Keith Whyte, Linda Kelleher, Brian Berke, Naomi Verdugo, Cynthia Fagnoni

Members Excused: David O’Connor, Bharati Patel

Staff Present: Cynthia Kemp, Farah Shakour, Suzanne Lane, Alan Orenstein, Glenda Blake, Joe Bullock

Public Comment (s):

There were no public comments.

Approval of the February 15, 2012 Minutes:

ACCSB Chair Skelly called for the approval of the February 15, 2012. The Members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Brannon motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Whyte seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without correction.

CSB Staff Recognition Award (s):

The February staff recognition award was presented to Matilde Sarmiento-Reyes, Homeless Case Manager in the Department of Human Services (DHS), Behavioral Healthcare Division (BHD) Client Services Entry program. Ann Courembis, Supervisor in CSE / Discharge Planning, stated that Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes is the “Mother Teresa” of the homeless in Arlington. She stated that this work is a calling for Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes, not just a job. Ms. Courembis relayed some vignettes about Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes’ ability to reach out to the most difficult to serve clients, including those living in the woods, those with memory loss, those with substance abuse issues, those with serious health concerns such as HIV, and the transgender population. Ms. Courembis stated that Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes does incredible work. Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes said that she is thankful and proud to work with the County and the professional staff. Chair Skelly thanked Ms. Courembis and Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes and conferred the award.

Presentation – Homeless Case Management Services:

Leslie Weisman, Client Services Entry (CSE) Bureau Chief in BHD, gave an overview about the Homeless Case Management Services in BHD. She stated that this team is the only program in the County staffed by Masters-level clinicians who work with homeless people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and dual diagnosis.

There are two programs in CSE that work with homeless individuals – the PATH and the TOW programs. Ms. Weisman explained that the PATH program focuses on street outreach to people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and dual diagnosis who are not willing to come to a program or facility for services. The PATH program is a state-funded program. The TOW (Treatment on Wheels) program serves homeless people with SMI no matter where they are. She explained that the staff routinely provide services for people with SMI and dually diagnosed individuals on the streets throughout the County and at the County’s shelters and treatment facilities, including the RPC shelter, Sullivan House, the SEEK Program, the Doorways Family Shelter and the Doorways Safe House for domestic violence victims. Psychiatric Services are included with the services. All services are “front door” services, designed to bring people who need assistance into services with the County and to link them to other appropriate services. Ms. Weisman said that CSE works with the winter shelter and A-SPAN as well.

Ms. Weisman stated that these teams work with the most disenfranchised, disconnected people in the County, with a caseload of 15-20 people on average. She noted the PATH staff had 1,705 duplicated contacts in FY11 and 628 so far this fiscal year.

Ms. Weisman explained that County citizens also call the program when they see homeless people who may need services and that staff is deployed to serve them.

Ms. Kelleher asked how the changes in the Doorways shelter system affecting the length of time people can stay in the shelters will affect CSE’s services. Ms. Weisman stated that though there is overlap, Doorways and the other shelters serve somewhat different populations, so the impact on CSE clients should be minimal.

Ms. Fagnoni asked, considering the recent death of a homeless man in Arlington, how the County deals with homeless people who die. Ms. Weisman responded that the staff works closely with police to help identify people through the pictures A-SPAN keeps on file, through identification in the Homeless Information System and through staff who have served them.

Ms. Jones asked if the program reaches out to the many homeless people at the public libraries. Ms. Weisman responded that Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes routinely works with these individuals and library staff. Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes added that A-SPAN offers transportation to homeless people at the libraries to the Opportunity Place once a week so that people can take showers and receive other services. Ms. Weisman clarified that , homeless individuals do have the right to occupy the libraries and benches surrounding them as long as there is no disturbance.

Ms. Deane asked how many homeless people live in encampments in the woods. Capt. Berke responded that there are approximately a dozen, but that this is just an estimate.

Mr. Whyte asked how many served were veterans. Ms. Weisman responded that there were ten veterans served in FY11. Mr. Whyte asked if the veterans are linked to veteran’s services. Ms. Sarmiento-Reyes stated that many do not want to use Veteran’s Administration (V.A.) services due to previous problems accessing the system. Ms. Blake added that there are now two veteran’s workers from the V.A. who are co-located in the Economic Independence Division (EID) to serve veterans.

Update - Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement with the Commonwealth of Virginia:

Chair Skelly introduced Glenda Blake, Aging and Disability Services Division Chief, Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS). Ms. Blake stated that a series of meetings between the CSB Directors / ID Directors and the state officials have taken place regarding the Department of Justice Settlement. She stated that there are still many outstanding questions about serving the needs of the current residents of the training centers.

Ms. Blake stated that in March, a federal judge, Judge Gibney, issued a ruling that clarified that it is the Commonwealth's decision, not a federal decision to close the training centers. There has been a focus on families and CSBs informing the judge of their positions and the needs in the region. Ms. Blake said a regional position statement is being developed to submit to the judge.

Ms. Blake explained that Arlington CSB is responsible for 33 people in training centers – 25 in Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) and 8 in Central Virginia Training Center (CVTC). All families lived in Arlington when the individuals were admitted to the Training Centers. Ms. Kemp added that there has been a petition from over 800 families to urge Judge Gibney to keep the training centers open. Ms. Blake stated that the jurisdictions are inviting the judge to the region to see the available services. The comment period extends through April 6, 2012; however because the decision rests in the hands of the Commonwealth, the judge has encouraged people to also petition the Governor of the Commonwealth. Ms. Blake stated that DHS staff is also meeting with families to explain the local resources available to help them with successful transition of their loved ones.

Ms. Kemp clarified that the DOJ determined that the state was violating the ADA and Olmstead Act and needs to move people into the community when they are able to live in the community with proper supports. The Commonwealth then decided to close the training facilities to free up funds to move people into the community. Ms. Kemp noted the distinction that the DOJ did not specify that the Commonwealth should close the training centers, only that services must be offered in the community.

Ms. Kemp noted that the region is developing a business plan that outlines the exact needs of the region to successfully transition the 152 people in NVTC in the region out of the training facility and into day support, ICFs, and other services. The plan will detail the associated costs. Ms. Kemp stated that the Commonwealth has \$30M in one-time funds in a trust fund and another proposed \$30M in one-time funds in the proposed state budget to build, buy and renovate homes and transition people into the community from the training centers. It was noted that the last ID group home took over two years to become operational.

Ms. Blake said that the families must also be well-informed about community-based services and have personal contact by staff to develop appropriate care plans and discharge plans outlining the types of supports needed in the community. She stated that staff has conducted family meetings. Ms. Blake stated that some families have expressed concerns about the quality of care in the facilities during the transition to closure, because staff may likely leave in search of new positions leading to understaffing in the facilities.

Ms. Fagnoni asked if the people discharged from the training centers could be moved to the Mary Marshall facility. Ms. Blake stated that this is not possible due to the intensity of the medical needs of the individuals in the training centers. Ms. Jones asked if some of the current training center residents could live in Arlington's current ICFs. Ms. Blake responded that some could live in ICFs with proper supports, including medical and special transportation services for the medically needy. She cautioned that the time, resources and the Commonwealth's plan is needed in order to successfully transition people into the community.

Chair Skelly stated that the comment period granted by the judge is a time for advocacy groups to express their concerns and possibly affect the process. It was noted that the ARC and the Down's syndrome Association is encouraging letter writing campaigns.

Ms. Blake also gave an update on the Mary Marshall facility. She stated that there are currently 35 residents. She announced that the state has issued a permanent license. She stated that there are seven IDD residents currently (five current and two in process) and that the Arlington case managers are doing a wonderful job with the transitioning of clients. Ms. Blake said that the facility is not fully staffed, but that the ratio of one staff to six residents has been met per the contract. She stated that the Director of Residential Services, a nurse and two Residential Coordinators have been hired and two vans were purchased for residents' transportation needs.

Overview – CSB FY13 Budget Presentations to the County Board Members:

Chair Skelly opened a discussion about the CSB FY13 budget presentations to the four current County Board members and asked the CSB members who attended for their feedback. She stated that there were a few follow up questions. Ms. Alonge stated that she felt the meetings went fairly well, but that there was no sense of the County Board members' preferences for funding. Ms. Kemp summarized the follow up questions asked by the County Board members:

- Young Adult Independent Living position explanation
- Comparison of psychiatric services for children with neighboring jurisdictions
- Concern about using local funds to meet the requirements of the DOJ Settlement
- Concern about whether or not primary medical care should be funded with local dollars

It was noted that the response to the County Board should include an explanation about the increased need for children's psychiatric care due to recent changes in the law pertaining to children in foster care. Ms. Kemp noted that each of the presenters did an excellent job. Ms. Kemp stated that the budget will be finalized in mid-to late-April and that the County Board will ask the Department Directors for responses to questions. Therefore, the CSB's responses to the County Board members' questions will be submitted with the DHS response package.

Chair Skelly noted that ten speakers, including three CSB members, spoke at the County Budget Hearing on March 20, 2012. She stated that the speakers did a "fabulous job" presenting each of the issues clearly, comprehensively, and concisely. Ms. Deane added that the housing advocacy groups' testimonies also included the CSB's priorities. Chair Skelly noted that the CSB supported the housing priorities and was also a signatory on the housing advocacy letter.

Chair Skelly stated that two CSB members, Mr. Whyte and Ms. Deane will testify at the Tax Rate Hearing on March 22, 2012 and that Ms. Verdugo is writing a letter to the editor of local newspapers in support of the \$.02 tax rate increase. She stated that human services programs rarely attend the Tax Hearing or publish articles and doing so will give the County Board the needed information and community awareness to support human services programs. An audience member stated that the CSB and DHS should continue to do more outreach and awareness activities surrounding the need for funding for mental health and homelessness issues. He commended the CSB on their work and lent his support. Ms. Kelleher stated that Tricia Sullivan, a Washington Post reporter who attended the Budget Hearing, would likely be willing to cover housing issues and how CSB clients are served in affordable housing programs in the County. Ms. Kemp noted that sixteen people have been placed as a result of the 100 Homes Campaign.

Ms. Kemp asked if a thank you letter should be drafted for the County Board members. Chair Skelly responded affirmatively.

ACCSB Executive Director's Report:

ACCSB Executive Director Cynthia Kemp reported the following:

- Ms. Kemp distributed the financial report for (*Refer to Packet*). She stated that the revenue is at 40% out of a target of 57%. Ms. Kemp stated that billing has been suspended in order to transition the Anasazi system to a new billing modality that will comply with new federal HIPPA regulations, so reports will show revenue that will be much lower than average and will rebound once billing resumes in March. Ms. Kemp stated in April the billing should rise to 64%.
- Ms. Kemp reviewed the data on the Group Home Report with the Board Members (*Refer to Handout*). She reported that there were no significant events.

- Ms. Kemp stated that the Executive Committee decided to go forward with the CSB Annual Awards Ceremony in June and that CSB members should begin considering the types of awards they would like to confer. Staff will be soliciting nominations.
- Ms. Kemp pointed out that the Call Screening Data for July through December 2012 is in the packets and outlines the number of calls received in CSB programs and information on the referrals to other programs. She stated that the data has been reviewed in committees already.
- Ms. Kemp stated that reports on the Children's Behavioral Healthcare Implementation Plan will be presented to the CSB quarterly beginning in April by Heather Stowe.
- Ms. Kemp reiterated that there are now 35 residents in the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence.

ACCSB Chair's Report:

ACCSB Chair Carol Skelly reported the following:

- Chair Skelly noted that ID Proclamation Ceremony occurred on March 6, 2012 at the National Science Foundation. Ms. Jones stated that over 300 people attended and eight awards were conferred to community groups, including employers such as Revolution Cycles, Northrop Grumman, and Henderson Hall / Fort Myer Joint Base Services. County Board members participated fully in the ceremony. Ms. Jones stated that Joanna Barnes, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Bureau Chief, should be commended for all of her hard work on the program coordination. Ms. Jones acknowledged that Becky Suttell from the Therapeutic Recreation program should be recognized for designing the event programs. Ms. Jones said that the ceremony was recorded and is showing on Arlington local television.
- Chair Skelly asked Mr. Mack to give an update about the recent meeting on the Drug Court. Mr. Mack stated that Judge Newman led a meeting of all the stakeholders and that all seem to be in agreement with the establishment of a Drug Court in Arlington. Mr. Mack stated that the success of developing a Drug Court in Arlington hinges the appointment of a third judge funded by the state budget.
- Chair Skelly thanked Ms. Hermann for agreeing to be the CSB liaison to the Mary Marshall Advisory Council.
- Chair Skelly announced that Ms. Hermann, Mr. Brannon, and Mr. Kidwell have agreed to sign up for another three-year term with the CSB.
- Chair Skelly stated that the update on the Virginia Hospital Center has been postponed until next month.

Informational Items:

- An audience member introduced himself as a client of the behavioral healthcare services. He stated that he received excellent services in the Behavioral Healthcare Division and that his therapist, Dr. Amy Lieberon, is one of the most incredible therapists he has ever had. He stated that Ms. Kemp is doing a wonderful job leading behavioral healthcare services and responding to client inquiries and needs. He stated that he will attend CSB meetings and will lend his support to the CSB's work.
- Ms. Verdugo would like an update next month on training EMT staff in Crisis Intervention and reissuing the pocket guide listing CSB emergency services information. Ms. Kemp stated that she will report the information as she gets it and is diligently working on this.

- Ms. Verdugo has found two Spanish language speakers to facilitate the family support groups and would like BHD to advertise this service. She noted that these will be the only Spanish language support groups in the state.
- Mr. Brannon announced that he was approved for a 6-month state grant to fund employing twelve people with mental illness to receive peer support and employment services. He thanked Ms. Kemp for her feedback.

The Arlington Community Services Board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Farah Shakour