

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

December 17, 2012

Members Present: Jenette O'Keefe, Jim Mack, Charlie Baughman

Members Absent: Keith Whyte, Craig Dabney, Bharati Patel, Shaun Buckner, Wes Sanchez, Reina Escobar

BHD Staff: Joe Bullock, Marti Mefford

- I. ALEXANDRIA CSB METHADONE PROGRAM SITE VISIT-** Ms. Susan Tatum, Director, welcomed committee members and thanked everyone for visiting her program. Ms. Tatum provided the committee with an overview of the treatment philosophy for opioid dependence along with a description of the wide variety of treatment options available for consumers. Alexandria CSB provides specialized opioid treatment services through the Center for Adult Outpatient Services. The Alexandria CSB is the only board that offers directly operated medicated assisted Opioid dependence treatment and is used by all Region II CSB's. The aim of the program is to use medication assistance (methadone/buprenorphine/suboxone) to help consumers with serious opioid dependence develop a strong recovery program to build a satisfying and happy life in recovery. Ms. Tatum responded to multiple questions before introducing the center medical director, Dr. Kurt Brandt. Discussion continued regarding typical dosage levels throughout a consumer's treatment up to and including a complete tapering off of methadone. Dr. Brandt did point out that this process can take many years to accomplish. Ms. Tatum completed the presentation by taking the committee for a tour of the program facilities.

NOTE: The next SA Committee meeting will be held on **January 28, 2013 at 7:00 pm** and will be a joint meeting with the MH Committee in the 1810 Edison Building.