

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

April 9, 2012

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge, Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo

Apologies: Heather Stowe

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Naomi Verdugo.
2. Review of March 12 minutes: Minutes approved with one minor typographical-error change.
3. Recruitment update: Tom Wallace provided an update on recruiting. The Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau Chief position is in recruitment. Interviews have been scheduled. It is hoped that the position will be filled within the next several weeks. The Quality Assurance Manager position is also in recruitment. Interviews have been scheduled.
4. Action Plan update: The latest update on the Action Plan for Children's Behavioral Healthcare was circulated. Recent changes were highlighted and discussed. These included updates on rollout of evidence-based interventions, licensure status of staff, outreach to the schools and the community at large, and strides made in ensuring compliant documentation and consistent auditing. Tom Wallace will update this document to include adjusted target dates and clarity in the status column for each item. The document will be circulated to the committee via e-mail.
5. Monthly statistics: New monthly measures were circulated, covering the first three quarters of the fiscal year (July through March). Tom Wallace pointed out the newly added measures, which include residential numbers, intake information, and outreach activities. Several interesting trends were discussed, such as the uptick in the number of children receiving psychiatric services and the number of intakes completed in the past two months. Monthly statistics will be provided at each meeting of this committee.
6. Court liaison report: Fredy Martinez, DHS Court Liaison, prepared highlights of the services provided since the program's inception in September 2011, and this document was shared with the committee. Tom Wallace discussed a recent case of successful diversion that would likely not have happened without the court liaison in place.
7. Update on outreach efforts: Tom Wallace brought the group up to date on outreach activities. These include a training for guardians ad litem in February, a presentation to school counselors in February, and meetings with Dominion Hospital staff, and with Yorktown High School counseling staff in March. Additional meetings with schools have been scheduled; school resource officers will be invited to attend. Committee members discussed further outreach ideas, including visiting the private schools in Arlington, meeting with school staff identified as mental-health experts in their schools (the "cadre" of experts), and meeting with staff at the free clinic and the Arlington Pediatric Center. These will be followed up on.

8. Agenda planning: the most recent draft of the agenda planning calendar was circulated. Several of the items scheduled for meetings in January and February did not occur. These will be slotted into new dates. Discussed having front-line school staff, such as members of the “cadre” and transition counselors, come to the May meeting, if it can be arranged, to get their perspective on working with those with mental illness and accessing CSB services. Tom Wallace will outreach school staff to arrange. Discussed a joint meeting with the adult mental health committee in June, with youth transition as the topic. Tom Wallace will discuss availability with Alan Orenstein. Betsy Greer pointed out that other committees begin the program review and budget process earlier than July, the traditional month that this committee takes up the topic. Will try to get this on the May agenda. An updated draft of the planning calendar will be circulated to committee members before the next meeting.

9. New and old business:

- Betsy Greer discussed the challenges with getting the public schools to adopt the NAMI “Breaking the Silence” curriculum. The schools are “cherry-picking” what they want from the program. Ongoing efforts with new school staff, Jeffrey Carpenter and Marcia Jackson, may help move this in a positive direction.
- Linda Staheli asked if there was any interest in lobbying in Richmond during the next general assembly session. Betsy Greer and Naomi Verdugo discussed efforts that are made locally when assembly members are in town and hold meetings. One group to talk with is Voices for Virginia’s Children, who are a well-respected advocacy group in Richmond. Committee members expressed some interest in developing lobbying plans and visiting Richmond during next year’s session.
- Shauna Alonge discussed approaching the new local magazine, called Arlington, about running a story on how Arlington families cope with a child who has mental illness, including navigating the schools and mental health systems.
- Marguerite Tomasek was able to determine that the presentation she attended in the past, organized by Arlington Public Schools, is a PTA-sponsored program at Wakefield High School on legal issues. Naomi Verdugo will participate in the next one with Matt Foley from the public defender’s office. Particulars to follow when received.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, May 7, at 4:00 p.m., in lower level room B at 2100 Washington Blvd.

Action Items:

- Committee to periodically review the focus on services, as discussed at the last two meetings. *Ongoing*
- Action Plan to be updated and circulated. *In process.*

- Agenda-planning calendar to be updated and circulated. *Sent via e-mail with minutes.*
- Committee members have requested a list of services provided by agencies who responded to the RFQ. *In process.*
- Inter-agency agreements, between DHS/CSB and the schools and DHS/CSB and the juvenile detention home, to be circulated before next meeting. *Done.*