

## Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

January 9, 2012

Committee Present: Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo (Chair)

Staff: Dan Byrne, Heather Carter-Stowe, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Naomi Verdugo. New Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau Chief Dan Byrne was welcomed to the group, and members introduced themselves.
  2. Focus on services: Heather Carter-Stowe provided an overview of how staff determines the appropriate services for a child/family, how mode of service delivery is determined, and how services are assessed. Wide-ranging discussion occurred on all of these topics. The main focus was on the new approach to contracting. Contracted services are a major expense for the Department each year. A clinical contracts manager, LaVoyce Reid, has joined the team to revamp the contracting process, ensuring that performance standards and expected outcomes are included in all contracts, and that they be closely monitored. Ms. Reid will attend next month's meeting to discuss this process. The Committee agreed to periodically review the focus of services as discussed over the last two meetings, to keep informed of developments as the new approach to services is rolled out.
  3. Review of December 12 minutes: No revisions were made and the minutes were approved.
  4. Preview of Juvenile Justice Committee update: Joan Planell and Heather Carter-Stowe will be presenting an update on the work of the CSB's Juvenile Justice committee meeting to the full CSB on January 18. Ms. Planell will discuss the history of the formation of the committee and its work. Dr. Carter-Stowe will discuss the committee's work going forward. At this Committee's meeting, Dr. Carter-Stowe provided an overview of the Juvenile Justice committee's priorities, and the work of its subcommittees. Discussion focused on the regional effort for a crisis-stabilization center, which remains a priority.
  5. Action Plan update: The latest update of the Children's Behavioral Healthcare Action Plan was circulated and discussed. Heather Carter-Stowe indicated that three or four home-based agencies have expressed interest in responding to the RFQ. The Action Plan will be reviewed monthly at these meetings.
4. New and Old Business:
- Betsy Greer requested that a letter to the school superintendent be drafted acknowledging the retirement of Assistant Superintendent Alvin Crawley and expressing appreciation for the collaborative work he did with the CSB regarding students with mental health concerns. This will be drafted for Carol Skelly's signature.

- Betsy Greer is seeking clarity on the statement in the Mary Thornton report regarding the prevalence of combined mental health and social services at public agencies. Heather Carter-Stowe will try to obtain the data on which this statement was based, though the contract with Mary Thornton has terminated.
- Heather Carter-Stowe provided an update on community outreach efforts for children's behavioral healthcare services. A new brochure has been developed. Plans are in process for spreading the word in the community. Janine Finnell informed the group that there is a community association group, which coordinates the work of all the community associations and would be a valuable resource for effective dissemination of information.
- Naomi Verdugo announced that the NAMI 4th Monday speakers' program is scheduled for January 23, at which a staff person from the CSB's Behavioral Healthcare Division will address the topic of suicide.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, February 6, at 4:00 p.m., in lower level room B at 2100 Washington Blvd.

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Action Items:

- Committee to periodically review the focus on services, as discussed at the last two meetings.
- Dan Byrne to provide Committee with information about evidence-based practices used in substance abuse treatment.