

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

February 6, 2012

Committee Present: Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli

Staff: Dan Byrne, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Betsy Greer.
2. Review of January 9 minutes: No revisions were made and the minutes were approved.
3. Review of January 26 APS-DHS-NAMI presentation: Betsy Greer and DHS staff discussed the gratifyingly large turnout for the resource fair and panel presentation. At the fair, Dan Byrne and Tom Wallace, manning the DHS table, made contact with a staff person from Dominion Hospital, who has agreed to meet to discuss improved collaboration. Betsy Greer shared that she was pleased with the quality of the presentations and discussed the importance of scheduling a working group meeting to get started on planning the next one. This will be organized through Kathleen Donovan of APS.
4. Outreach efforts: Dan Byrne and Tom Wallace discussed upcoming outreach efforts, including a presentation to APS directors of counseling and counseling staff on February 7, to brief them on accessing services through the Behavioral Healthcare Bureau. A meeting with Dominion Hospital staff has been scheduled for February 14 to discuss improved collaboration and better discharge planning. Also, on February 24, DHS staff will conduct an in-service with local attorneys and guardians ad litem (GAL) to give them a broad overview of services available through the CSB as well as through social services. It is hoped that continuing legal education credits will be approved to attract a larger number of attorneys, some of whom may be interested in taking on GAL tasks.

Betsy Greer circulated Naomi Verdugo's ideas for outreach efforts. There are excellent ideas on the list, and they will be pursued.

Linda Staheli shared some of the challenges she and her family have faced trying to get the proper special-education services for her son through the public schools. Her son is attending a private school because the services they needed were not offered by the public schools. She is working with Alisa Cowen from the Special Education Advisory Committee to develop a database of Arlington students who have left the public schools because of similar difficulties accessing appropriate services.

5. New and Old Business:

- Betsy Greer reported that the letter to the superintendent expressing appreciation for Assistant Superintendent Alvin Crawley's collaborative work with the CSB has been sent. Dr. Crawley retired in December.

- In response to last month's question about the prevalence of co-located mental health and social services at public agencies, Dan Byrne provided a list of some of the areas where this occurs, including Humboldt County, California, Philadelphia, Montgomery County, and locations in Florida, New Hampshire and South Carolina.
- Dan Byrne circulated a list of evidence-based and outcome-oriented treatment options for substance abuse issues. He will circulate it by e-mail as well and it will be discussed at the March meeting.
- Betsy Greer attended the DHS-sponsored training on pediatric mood and anxiety issues, and described it as "wonderful and well-attended."

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, March 12, at 4:30 p.m., in lower level room A at 2100 Washington Blvd.

Action Items:

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