

**Arlington County Community Services Board**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 10, 2012**  
**6:00 pm**

**Present:** James Mack, Anne Hermann, Jenette O’Keefe, Judy Deane, Barbara Jones, Carol Skelly, Naomi Verdugo, Moira Saucedo

**Staff:** Cindy Kemp, Farah Shakour, Kelly Mauller

The December 10, 2012 Arlington County Community Services Board (ACCSB) Executive Committee meeting was convened by the ACCSB Executive Committee Chair James Mack at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held at the Department of Human Services Sequoia Building, Conference Room A, 2100 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia.

**Approval of the November 5, 2012 Executive Committee Minutes:**

Chair Mack called for a motion to approve the November 5, 2012 ACCSB Executive Committee minutes. Ms. Deane motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Hermann seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with one correction.

**FY14 Local Budget Discussion:**

Chair Mack opened a discussion on the FY 14 Local Budget reductions. Chair Mack stated that unlike recent prior years, the County is requesting across the board reductions, therefore, the CSB must decide which programs are most important to preserve in order to provide the essential services necessary in any community-based system of care. Chair Mack turned the discussion over to Ms. Kemp who walked the members through a document outlining the prioritization of these services (*Refer to Handout*). Ms. Kemp explained that the most essential and basic services across all areas of the CSB system are:

- Out-patient Services
- Residential Services
- Case Management
- Nursing / Psychiatry
- Emergency Services including Hospital Discharge Planning

Ms. Kemp explained that in the past, the approach has been to scale back service options while still providing each client with the essential services needed for their recovery. In the wake of budget reductions, clients will still be served. After some discussion, the members agreed that the prioritization presented was reasonable and serves as a valuable tool to guide further advocacy decisions. One member asked how the County’s hiring slow down will affect services. Ms. Kemp responded that the slow down limits hiring to 25% of the vacancies and that in the Behavioral Healthcare Division, three positions have been allocated to ensure that essential services are provided.

**Discussion on the Need for a Human Services Bond in Arlington (Refer to Handout):**

Chair Mack opened a discussion about the possibility of utilizing a Human Services Bond in Arlington to support CSB programs. He explained that Arlington has never approved or granted a bond for human services. Ms. Skelly noted that a bond is typically used for construction and physical structure improvements, and leasing space is a Pay-Go issue. She noted that there is a cue for bond measures, and there may be a substantial wait time of ten years or more to see the results of the bond. Ms. Verdugo stated that a bond should fund housing options for CSB clients. Ms. Verdugo suggested that the sale of the Clarendon House building could be used alternatively to fund service expansion, rather than attempting to utilize a bond. Ms. Kemp stated that a meeting with County and DHS leadership was scheduled but later had to be cancelled regarding Arlington's use of a Human Services Bond. Ms. Kemp will follow up with attempting to reschedule the meeting in January. Ms. Skelly suggested that this meeting should also focus on the types of programs that should and should not be consolidated at DHS, but rather at satellite locations, such as centers for homeless outreach, young adult cluster housing and housing for people with intellectual disabilities. The members decided that it would be most productive to first meet with the DHS Director prior to the meeting with the financial office leadership. The members agreed that they would reach out to their respective networks to solicit other topics of concern and to invite interested parties.

**Overview of the Consumer-Run Drop-In Center and the Peer Internship Program Issues:**

Chair Mack opened a discussion about the Consumer-run Drop-in Center and the Peer Internship Program. Ms. Kemp stated that the contractual obligations with each program are still being finalized. She stated that concerning the Peer Internship Program, the contract will run through the end of the year and not be renewed. Regarding the Peer Empowerment Center, the contract will be terminated as of December 21, 2012 since no mutual agreement could be made. Ms. Kemp will give the full board an overview at the December meeting.

**Update on DOJ Settlement and the Closing of the Training Centers:**

Chair Mack opened a discussion on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement on the closure of the state training centers. The legal process began as a lawsuit by the ARC against the state. Ms. Skelly noted that the First Report of the Independent Reviewer was made available on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) website today. She noted that the usual process for advocacy at the state level is to approach the Governor first, then if there is no success, to approach the state legislature. She went on to state that this process is complex and involves many interested parties.

Ms. Kemp gave an overview of the latest developments on the Settlement Agreement as follows:

- The Commissioner of DBHDS issued a letter stating he wants to work with the CSBs; however, there are no funds available.
- Now that the process is in the implementation phase, the CSBs are being asked to step to the forefront. The Prince William County CSB has written a letter to DBHDS stating that if the funds for community placement are not provided, the current residents of the training centers slated for closure, will be forced to move to other training centers. Therefore, it is logical that the state push back the closure date or provide the funding.

The members discussed the best method to advance the agenda of pushing back the closure dates. Ms. Skelly will coordinate with Ms. Kemp and Ms. Barnes to review the Governor's proposed budget and create a strategy. It was noted that the CSB has an obligation to inform the

legislature that this issue exists now or a year of valuable time will be lost to advocate further. It was also noted that the state, not the DOJ, issued the closure dates. Therefore, the state can push the dates back.

Northern Virginia Training Center's closure poses particular difficulty due to the higher cost of living in the area. Therefore, the Arlington County Board issued a letter to the Governor stating that the financial burden cannot be shifted to the localities. The members requested that Ms. Kemp send the letter from Prince William County to the Fairfax County CSB's Executive Director in order to send a unified message to the state.

### **Brief Updates / Information:**

- State Public Hearings on the Budget – Ms. Kemp provided the members with an informational flyer. The hearing is in Manassas on January 4, 2013 in the morning. This is the same day as the Arlington public hearing with the state legislative delegation. It was recommended to arrive at least 1 hour prior to sign up to provide testimony. Ms. Skelly and Ms. Saucedo volunteered to attend the state hearing. Ms. Verdugo requested talking points. Ms. Kemp stated that once the Governor releases his budget amendments on December 17, she will collaborate with the Virginia Association of CSBs to create the talking points and email them to the full board.
- Arlington County's final legislative priorities document will be available on December 11, 2012. Ms. Kemp will provide a copy of the letter from the County Board to the full CSB.
- Ms. Kemp will contact Linda Kelleher to arrange a meeting on the County's Housing Study.
- Ms. Kemp will reschedule the presentation for the full board on Older Adults and Alcohol Use by Rhonda Williams of the Alexandria CSB.
- The January full board meeting will be held on January 23, 2013. Cindy Stevens, with Arlington DHS's housing services, is scheduled to provide an overview of Arlington's housing programs including Housing Grants and Permanent Supported Housing.
- Andrew Sperling from NAMI will discuss Mental Health Parity at the February full board meeting. Ms. O'Keefe suggested the CSB to write a letter of encouragement to the staff to express appreciation for work in the environment of reductions and that the CSB will be advocating to maintain staffing at current levels.
- Chair Mack gave an update on a meeting with Marsha Allgieir regarding the year round homeless shelter. He stated that the central question surrounded the necessary steps to mitigate the impact of a year round homeless shelter. He stated that the group was divided into small working groups and a spokesperson for each working group outlined the issues, such as residents smoking in public places; placement of the entryway; no need to line up for services since it is a 24-7 shelter; security issues; etc. He noted that there will be two more community meetings, including a meeting with the architects.

**Upcoming Items for CSB Full Board Meeting on November 14, 2012:**

- Staff Recognition: Christine Johnson, Administrative Assistant on PACT Team in the Behavioral Healthcare Division
- Ms. Kemp will provide a report on the Group Homes, as necessary.
- Ms. Kemp will provide an update on the Monthly Financial Report, as necessary.
- Ms. Kemp will provide a report on the Mary Marshall Facility
- The Resource Allocation by Need diagram discussion will be added to the agenda

The Arlington Community Services Board Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Jim Mack at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Mauller