

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

February 10, 2014

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge, Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo (on phone)

Staff: Heather Stowe, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Shauna Alonge.
2. Minutes: minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. CFSD update with Heather Stowe, Division Chief, Child and Family Services: Dr. Stowe was welcomed by the committee and provided an update on what is happening in the division. The following topics were addressed.
 - Staffing: the county-wide hiring slow-down has continued. DHS has done well with being able to fill vacancies. The vacant intensive care coordinator position has been filled, as has one full-time substance abuse prevention position. Three more mental health therapist positions are in recruitment. If a pool of strong candidates responds to the announcements, there may be an option of filling the remaining vacant positions (two FTEs) from the pool.
 - Managed care: The division, and the entire department, has been preparing for the implementation of Medicaid managed care, which occurs on April 1. Changes include modifying the intake and service authorization process. Dedicated department staff will handle financial, administrative, and authorization processes.
 - Collaboration with schools and courts: Dr. Stowe reiterated the vision of ensuring there is an integrated system of care in which the community comes together to meet the needs of all of the children in Arlington.

Members of the committee discussed with Dr. Stowe the challenges of collaborating with the schools; further discussion is in item number 5, below.

4. Monthly statistics: the lower total numbers served reported in recent months continued for January. Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau supervisors have focused on reviewing cases for ongoing medical necessity and have closed cases and reassigned others after recent staff departures. Tom Wallace will review reporting procedures to ensure accuracy and a clean, unduplicated count of clients served.

5. DHS-APS Mental Health Task Force follow-up: Several members of the committee attended the Mental Health Task Force meeting on February 6. The agenda consisted of the talking points prepared by members of the committee. The meeting focused on ways to improve collaboration between the two agencies and to develop strategies to educate school staff about DHS services. The discussion continued at this meeting, and included the following ideas:

- Working to circulate the bureau’s brochure throughout the community, including in the APS “first-day packet,” at libraries, recreation centers and to school staff. The Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families’ Teen Network Board is a potential collaborator to help with these efforts.
- Providing information to community-association list serves.
- Providing the NAMI “Ending the Silence” curriculum in the schools.
- Modifying content on the new county website as it comes online.
- Taking advantage of the newly released Arlington app for mobile phones. Tom Wallace will follow up with Kurt Larrick, DHS Communications Manager, about this possibility and other ways to spread the word.
- Exploring the presence of bureau staff at IEP meetings, especially for transition-age students. Tom Wallace will follow up with Wendy Carria of the schools.
- Partnering with the schools’ mental health cadre staff for ongoing education about behavioral health issues and services.

One of the topics discussed at the task force meeting was getting DHS staff together with APS staff to learn about behavioral health programs and discuss collaboration. Jeff Carpenter from APS is teaming with Tom Wallace to develop an agenda for this meeting, scheduled for March 19.

6. Action plan: The latest behavioral healthcare action plan was circulated. The item dealing with effective collaboration with public schools is the most pressing one at this point. Heather Stowe provided perspective on the committee’s interest in seeing the County Manager and Superintendent of Schools meet together to discuss better partnership on mental health issues, sharing that there are ways to accomplish this at other levels within the two agencies. The action plan will be reviewed at each meeting of this committee.

7. New business:

- The annual speaker event and mini resource fair occurs on February 19. Adelaide Robb is the guest this year. The flyer for the event will be circulated to the committee and to DHS staff and community partners.
- Betsy Greer recommended that committee members check out the Magellan website, which has resources for services. Magellan is the Medicaid managed-care organization for behavioral health services in Virginia. The site is magellanoofvirginia.com.
- Betsy Greer discussed arranging a refresher training for guardians ad litem. The last one addressed child welfare and behavioral health services, and the response was positive.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, March 10, at 4:00 p.m. at the Drewry Building.