

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

November 12, 2013

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

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Shauna Alonge.
2. Minutes: minutes from the October meeting were approved.
3. Monthly statistics: Tom Wallace circulated the monthly statistics. Numbers for the previous fiscal year are now included on the report. Total numbers served continue to be down, due to case reviews and closures related to staff departures. Emergency services numbers continue to be high as the school year has progressed; several of the children served by emergency services are current clients of children's behavioral healthcare. In future reports, substance abuse residential placements will be broken out of the total for children in residential services.
4. Action plan review and discussion: Tom Wallace circulated the draft update of the behavioral healthcare action plan. The following sections of the plan were reviewed.
 - Clinical model of care: Tom Wallace will review what other jurisdictions do regarding training in evidence-based practices and whether there is an opportunity for regional trainings. The date for implementation of ongoing training in core and evidence-based practices will be adjusted. Data on clinical outcomes will include demographic and diagnostic information.
 - Business process: Tom Wallace discussed the impact of the upcoming managed care change, in which Magellan will be the designated managed care organization for Medicaid clients.
 - Effective partnerships with community stakeholders: the committee discussed the issues with collaboration with Arlington Public Schools, and the need for high-level agreement between the County and the Schools on collaborative standards. A group of committee members will get together to discuss options and the way forward. The committee agreed that it needed to develop a talking points document regarding collaboration with the schools. Betsy Greer will look for the old talking points document to see if that can be updated for our use. Otherwise, a new document will be drafted. For court collaborations, Tom Wallace and/or the court liaison will provide the committee with periodic reports on court issues as they arise.
5. Trauma-informed care: During Naomi Verdugo's recent meeting with Judge Wiggins of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the judge discussed the traumatic experiences many of the children she sees have experienced, and the need to address that trauma in the care they receive. The court and DHS collaborated on a trauma-informed training on October 23, and will be following up with further trauma-focused trainings and collaborations.

6. New business:

- At Dr. Verdugo's meeting with the judge, the topic of limited residential substance-abuse treatment options was discussed. The county no longer has a contract with United Methodist Family Services, and the judge wondered what happened with that. Tom Wallace will research that issue and explore whether there are other residential providers available for substance abuse treatment for youth. He will check with the DHS contracts manager and with other jurisdictions. He will also research NA/AA options for young people in Arlington.
- Janine Finnell discussed positive services she has seen provided by the Children's Resources Center in Richmond. She will provide further information about that program at a future meeting.
- Betsy Greer discussed NAMI's research award, to be given this week to Patrick McGorry, whose focus has been on children's mental health issues.

7. Old business: Tom Wallace provided an update on personnel issues. Three positions have been announced (intensive care coordinator and two substance abuse prevention positions); interviews are to be scheduled as soon as staff finishes reviewing the applications. Three other positions are vacant (equaling 25% of staff), and another staff person will be retiring in January. Tom Wallace will explore with his supervisor the proper avenues for advocating for filling these positions despite the countywide hiring slowdown. Tom Wallace will provide an update to the committee about his supervisor's views on advocacy the week of November 18.

8. New business:

- Tom Wallace will reach out to Sheila Guzman, detention-based therapist, regarding her involvement with court services on the implementation of trauma-informed care. One training has already been provided to staff; plans for future training will be researched and reported to the committee.
- The committee wondered whether Arlington or the state could institute a new law/change an old law where an underage drinker can call 911 and not be arrested. Shauna Alonge agreed to research.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. at the Stambaugh Building, 2100 Washington Boulevard, room 400.