

## **Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee**

**September 9, 2013**

Committee Present: Janine Finnell, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo (on phone)

Apologies: Shauna Alonge, Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

Guests: Kim Durand, Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families; Whitney Strand, READY Coalition

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Janine Finnell.
2. Monthly statistics: Tom Wallace circulated the monthly statistics. Total numbers served were down from July to August, which is typical in the summer. The number of youth in residential care increased from 9 in July to 12. Further information about residential care will be shared at a future meeting of the committee.

As of August, there were no families on the waiting list. Tom Wallace discussed the upcoming departure of several staff members and the impact that will have on the waiting list. Supervisors in the Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau are currently looking at case reassignment. Hiring for the vacant positions has not yet been determined; the hiring slow-down is still in effect.

3. Agenda planning: For the October meeting, transition staff from the CSB and the schools will be invited to talk about their services and working together.
4. Action plan: At the June meeting, Betsy Greer and Naomi Verdugo discussed developing a new action plan. This has been drafted. Naomi Verdugo will send it to Tom Wallace, who will circulate it to the committee for work in October's meeting.
5. Teen Council: Some time ago, Naomi Verdugo and Heather Stowe discussed recruiting teens and young adults who had received CSB services to advise CSB staff about their experiences and how to improve services. Tom Wallace will pursue this with Heather Stowe. There may be opportunities to partner with the Arlington Partnership's Teen Network Board on this undertaking.
6. Substance abuse prevention and READY Coalition: Whitney Strand, coordinator of the READY Coalition, discussed the efforts of this grant-funded group and their significant involvement in October's Substance Abuse Prevention Month activities. The group discussed the CSB's developing prevention efforts after staff retirements last fiscal year, and the emphasis on partnering with READY as the program is re-energized. Kim Durand provided information about the Arlington Partnership's wide-ranging efforts in the community and the opportunities to collaborate with the CSB. The committee will receive periodic updates about the work of READY and the Partnership.

## 7. New and old business:

- The committee reaffirmed the decision not to seek any budget requests for FY 2015.
- The meeting of the DHS-APS Mental Health Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, at 12:30 at the Education Center. Further details to follow.
- Tom Wallace will follow up with Fredy Martinez, Court Liaison, for some quotes from parents/teens who received services at court to be included in an article for submission to the NAMI magazine.
- Tom Wallace provided an update on the regional crisis-stabilization effort. An RFP is in process. Current timeline is to get the proposal open to submissions by mid-October, and select a vendor in December for initiation of services in January.
- We were unable to get information about children's behavioral healthcare services into the school's "first-day packet" for elementary students and their parents. Tom Wallace will work with Linda Erdos at APS to explore circulation through the "backpack mail" at another point during the school year after staffing issues have been stabilized.
- Tom Wallace will follow up with Kathleen Donovan, APS, regarding planning for the annual speaker/information fair in March.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 9, at 5:00 p.m., in room B on the lower level of the Stambaugh Building, 2100 Washington Boulevard.