

Arlington County Community Services Board
Intellectual Disabilities Committee
December 4, 2013 Meeting
DHS Stambaugh Building, 2100 Washington Blvd, Lower Level, Room A
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by ID Committee Co-Chair Moira Saucedo at 6:35 p.m.

Introductions – CSB members Brian DeAtley, Barbara Jones, and Moira Saucedo; committee members and guests Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Gay Harrington, Ann Kelly, David and Nancy Tishman, Alex Yellin, and Casey Youman; vendor staff members Marshall Henson of Linden Resources, April Pinch-Keller of MVLE, Bruce Patterson and Brenda Richardson of ServiceSource; Lucy Beadnell of The Arc of Northern Virginia; Joanna Wise Barnes, IDDS staff liaison to the committee

The Arc of Northern Virginia – Lucy Beadnell

See hand-out titled *December 2013 Legislative Update* for The Arc's updates about State initiatives and about the Virginia Abilities Alliance.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

The minutes were reviewed by the committee and approved as written. They will now be submitted to the full Community Services Board at its December 18, 2013 meeting. Committee co-chairs Barbara Jones and Moira Saucedo indicated that no ID committee members have expressed an interest yet in the CSB's new communications and outreach committee. They encouraged ID committee members to let them know if they are interested.

Employment First – Bruce Patterson, Executive VP/COO, ServiceSource

This was a follow-up to the ServiceSource presentation during the ID committee's November meeting. Patterson made the following additional points:

- His organization serves most of the Northern Virginia Training Center residents who participate in community-based day support programs; most of these attend the ServiceSource/Central Fairfax Services site in Springfield.
- NVTC reimburses ServiceSource \$150/day for these intensive services; that amount covers nursing services, other ancillary services, and a higher staff to participant ratio.
- If NVTC residents leave the training center with funding from an ID Waiver slot, the reimbursement rate will decrease to \$87/day.
- If all participants received Waiver funding rather than State reimbursement from NVTC (under the regional contract), the aggregated loss for ServiceSource might be \$600,000 annually.
- Providers such as ServiceSource are reimbursed by CSBs, by the ID or DD Waivers, or by DARS for their services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Recipients of services are not charged.

- ServiceSource is attempting to schedule a meeting with the State to ask about State bridge funding, including what happens when it ends.
- The ID Waiver doesn't limit the number of staff support hours for persons receiving individual supported employment (a competitive job with a job coach).
- ServiceSource will focus on individual and perhaps group supported employment.
- Despite the ServiceSource movement away from organizational employment, participants will have a place to go during their days, including alternatives for those who don't engage in community-based employment.
- Options may include self-employment, educational and recreational opportunities. They may partner with Fairfax County Public Schools and Northern Virginia Community College.
- Their current computer recycling program may become employee-owned. Other self-employment possibilities include jewelry- and postcard- making.
- The ServiceSource lease for space at headquarters on Edsall Rd in Alexandria ends in January 2015. They may retain a smaller space there. They will also decentralize to multiple smaller locations – some leased. They are beginning a capital campaign to raise funds for purchase of a building.
- ServiceSource is meeting with individuals and families now about their redesign plans.

A discussion period followed Patterson's presentation and included these points:

- Most State delegates and senators attended the November 20, 2013 CSB meeting at which Virginia's implementation of the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice was discussed. Elected officials appear to be informed about issues related to the agreement.
- Catholic Charities owns a building on Cathedral Lane in Arlington that ServiceSource might want to explore.
- Concern was expressed about one possible ServiceSource site in Oakton as an alternative to Alexandria. A preference for an Arlington site was expressed instead.
- Some individuals now in organizational (center-based) employment tried community-based employment earlier, and it was not a good match for them. Some of these same individuals prefer center-based employment, though, rather than educational and recreational activities during their days. How can they work but be safe in the community?
- Some individuals are quite proud of their current paychecks, no matter how small, and would rather have center-based work, even part-time, than engage in educational and recreational activities all day every day.
- Individuals may be more integrated in center-based programs – where they have peers and supervisors who understand them - than they are in community-based employment where they might feel isolated from others who don't understand them.
- Some families don't want those in center-based employment to transition to day support instead.
- Some families would like to retain a variety of options for those whose needs vary, and also for those whose needs vary throughout the day.

- Some families would like more employment options within Arlington.

Marshall Henson of Linden Resources distributed a hand-out titled *Employment First Initiatives* which detailed steps that Linden Resources has already taken to implement this State philosophy.

County Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015

The committee's interest in funding to help the Therapeutic Recreation Office serve individuals with higher needs was tabled.

The committee's suggestion for \$75,000 in one-time funds to hire a consultant was discussed. The original purpose of hiring the consultant was to increase employment options in Arlington for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since originally proposed, the purpose appears to have expanded to include compliance with the State and federal Employment First initiatives. Some committee members believe that consultants are available who know more than service providers now under contract to the County, who know what is happening in other states, who know about Waiver reimbursement for supported employment, the potential scrutiny of our service delivery system, and what we need to change to be compliant with Employment First. Other opinions expressed included assumptions that contractors and County staff don't have time to conduct studies, and that studies have led to improvements in other County services.

Some committee members expressed opposition to requesting County funds for a study. One opinion was that County staff members and contract agencies are already experts in these areas. It was also stated that information is readily available from a variety of sources that would not charge us for it.

A compromise was suggested. It was proposed that we publish a Request for Proposals (RFP). If we receive responses from good offerors, we move ahead. If not, we either delay the study or do not proceed with it.

Final comments tied the study to the school-to-work transition process with some committee members expressing concerns about how transitions work, whether changes are needed in the transition process, and that transitions are not now evidence-based practices.

IDDS Updates – Joanna Wise Barnes

Joanna shared the following hand-outs:

- A November 15, 2013 letter from the Northern Virginia Regional Management Group, signed by four of the five HPR II CSB chairs. The letter was sent to all State representatives of HPR II and details resources needed to build community capacity related to Virginia's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.
- A flier about a RIVA group home open house in Alexandria on December 10, 2013

Joanna also passed around five examples of Employment First documents that are available on the State website at: www.dbhds.virginia.gov

And Joanna passed around three recent Employment First documents that she will mail or email to anyone who requests them. Joanna's email address is: jwisebarnes@arlingtonva.us

- *A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities – Blueprint for Governors*
- *Employment First: The Role of Informed Choice – Dr. Joan Kester, GWU*
- *High Expectations: Transforming the American Workforce as the ADA Generation Comes of Age – U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions*

Finally, Joanna gave an update on IDDS vacancies. One new support coordinator begins work on December 16, 2013, leaving IDDS with only one support coordination vacancy – to be filled as allowed under the hiring slow-down. Interviews for the support coordination supervisory position continue; seven applicants will be interviewed this week.

New Business

Two vendor events are scheduled in December:

- Linden Resources' Miracle on 23rd Street – December 6, 6:00 p.m.
- Community Integration Center/ServiceSource Holiday Party – December 13, 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned prior to 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in room A on the lower level of the DHS building, 2100 Washington Blvd, Arlington 22204.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

These minutes were reviewed and approved as written by the ID committee at its January 8, 2014 meeting. The minutes will be submitted to the full CSB at its next meeting.