

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY COMMITTEE

March 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

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

Introductions – Barbara Jones, Committee Co-Chair and CSB Member; Committee Members Ann Kelly, Carol Skelly, Moira Saucedo, Nancy Tishman, and Alex Yellin; Vendor Staff Members Anne Rule of Community Residences and Michelle Lange of Linden Resources; Lucy Beadnell of The Arc of Northern Virginia; Becky Suttell of Arlington’s Therapeutic Recreation Office; Joanna Wise Barnes of Arlington’s IDD Services

Agenda Items

Approval of February Meeting Minutes - Committee members reviewed draft minutes. Minutes were approved as written and will be submitted to the full CSB at its next meeting.

IDD Proclamation Review – Barbara Jones reported on the morning event of March 5th in the County Board Room. Certificates of appreciation were given to service providers by County Board Members, assisted by individual(s) receiving services from each provider. Opinions were that County Board Chair Jay Fisette did a good job of leading the festivities. Estimates were that about 100 people attended. Leftover refreshments were donated to the Clarendon House, the County’s psychosocial day program. Ms. Jones ended by recommending that either the 2015 proclamation be scaled back, or that others volunteer to help plan and implement it. She will not be available to lead the proclamation planning committee next year.

The Arc of Northern Virginia – Lucy Beadnell distributed and reviewed the hand-out titled The Arc of Northern Virginia’s March 2014 Legislative Update. See attachment. The legislative session is not over yet; outcomes are still pending.

CSB Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015 – Barbara Jones referred committee members to a hand-out titled CSB FY15 Local Budget Priorities. Committee members also looked again at page two of their February 5, 2014 meeting minutes. Barbara Jones will meet with County Board Members on March 20, 2014 to request support for one-time funding of \$25,000 to increase job development activities. The intent is to place more persons who have intellectual and developmental disabilities into competitive employment.

SPARC Tours – Barbara Jones and Ann Kelly revisited last month’s discussion about their tours of SPARC programs in Fairfax County. (See February 5, 2014 meeting minutes, page one.) Comments included the provision of space by Fairfax County, the personal assistants paid by various Waiver funding for all participants (which provide behavioral and medical supports), and the life skills activities that participants engage in. Activities include dance, music, acting, and cooking – described as similar to those offered at the ServiceSource Community Integration Center/Woodmont. It was also described as

close to a clubhouse model begun by parents in Arlington many years ago. Lucy Beadnell opined that the full-time employment the arrangement provides for the personal assistants may help with job retention in that role, and may raise the bar for assistants. The SPARC representatives reportedly do home visits for individuals who can't come to one of their two sites (Reston and McLean). SPARC serves persons with autism and has a quiet room for those who prefer that. Finally, there was discussion about the interest in and potential for replicating SPARC in Arlington, perhaps in space provided by a church, and about inviting SPARC director Donna Goldbranson to speak to the committee in the future.

Employment First – Barbara Jones reiterated earlier meeting discussions with and by provider ServiceSource, an organization which is moving ahead to down-size its Alexandria location and adding a site in Oakton. Individuals and families have been assured that all current participants will have placements as the program evolves away from sheltered employment to other models. There was discussion about job development for those individuals now in sheltered employment. Joanna Wise Barnes reported that fiscal year 2014 contracts with vocational providers are being revised, and purchase orders increased, to fund more job development efforts. Ann Kelly described her research in another state about job training and development at WalMart, about restaurants and other employers.

The discussion returned to the subject of skill building and job training programs offered by Arlington Public Schools to special education students. Two committee members reviewed their own experiences with school job placement efforts. Concerns were expressed about whether special education students are being adequately trained for jobs, and prepared for jobs which are available in the community. These concerns include whether behaviors are being adequately shaped, beginning at young ages. There was speculation about whether the ID committee should be contacting Arlington Public Schools' Special Education Advisory Committee or the School Board. A suggestion was made that the ID committee should present these suggestions to the full CSB or its executive committee before making such external contacts.

Ideas to increase job placement success included departments within the County, the Interfaith Coordinating Council, churches (bulletins), the business community (top 100 employers), vocational vendors, and parents' personal connections.

One member reminded others that Lucia Claster is working on an employment project to help special education students or young adults who don't meet CSB eligibility criteria. Ms. Claster had earlier suggested that she might be available to talk to the committee in June.

Staff Reports

Therapeutic Recreation Office – Becky Suttell reported that they have a new intern who will begin a theater improvisational group. TRO spring sessions begin soon; the flier is attached to these minutes.

IDD Services – Joanna Wise Barnes reported the following:

- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) published guidelines for requesting and using bridge funding, intended to support service expansion until Waiver rates are revised. DBHDS is meeting with providers to explain the guidelines on March 7, 2014.

- The DBHDS Provider (Waiver) Rate Study (by Burns and Associates) has begun.
- DBHDS published the list of names selected for the Waiver Study Redesign workgroup, its various sub-committees, and the Waiver Rate Study workgroup. None of those selected are from Arlington, but there is representation from Northern Virginia.
- DBHDS is surveying stakeholders about The Advisory Consortium on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (TACIDD). See copy of March 5 email from Lee Price (attached) for the survey website address.
- The County Manager's proposed FY2015 budget highlights
 - No suggested budget cuts
 - A request for a 1% rate increase for non-profit organizations under contract to the County
 - IDDS didn't request additional funding for June 2014 special education student graduates to be served next year. This is because we received five new ID Waiver slots in FY14 and will receive more slots for FY15; two individuals moved, one retired, and three left day or vocational programs because of health and other reasons. Their local funding will be used for the graduates next year.
 - The hiring slow-down will end soon and the one IDDS vacancy – a support coordinator position – will be filled then.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Barbara Jones.

Approval of March 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

These minutes were reviewed by the ID committee of the CSB at its April 2, 2014 meeting. They were approved by the committee as written and will now be submitted to the full CSB at its next meeting.