

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY COMMITTEE OF THE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of October 2, 2013 meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by co-chair Moira Saucedo.

Introductions – Committee co-chairs and CSB members Barbara Jones and Moira Saucedo; CSB Chair Jim Mack; CSB member Brian DeAtley; committee members and parents Donna Budway, Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Alex Yellin, Ann Kelly, Russell Kelly, Alex Soroko, Casey Youman, Nancy Tishman and Carol Skelly; provider representatives Anne Rule of Community Residences, Brenda Richardson of Service Source, Michelle Lange of Linden Resources; The Arc of No VA representative Lucy Beadnell; County employees Becky Suttell of the Therapeutic Recreation Office and Jennifer Acheson of IDD Services.

Approval of September Minutes – The draft minutes of the September 11, 2013 committee meeting were approved as read.

The Arc of Northern Virginia Updates – Lucy Beadnell

Beadnell distributed and referred to a hand-out titled “October 2013 Legislative Update.” See attached.

- Waiver re-design contract agency, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), forums being held October 9 in Manassas and October 10 in Alexandria. The forum will consist of small groups discussing: Rates, Eligibility, Services and Future of the Waiver.
- State Individual and Family Supports Program received 600 applications in the first week. They still do not know why people could not do the application online.
- Exceptional Rates – The additional 25% rate has been put off until February 2014.
- Virginia’s Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement Update –Report about Regional Community Support Centers is still in draft form, but should soon be released.
- Virginia Abilities Alliance – Virtual tours for community residential options are online. Fall tour options are being planned in Fairfax, Arlington and Loudon.

Question: Regarding HSRI, is Virginia one of many states they are working with? Answer: They are based in Oregon and have done this [Waiver reform] in a lot of other states.

Therapeutic Recreation Office Updates – Becky Suttell

Suttell distributed a flyer for their Halloween Dance for adults 18+ on October 19.

Results of the Parent/Participant Feedback Forum -- May 2013. See attached. Immediate changes include: adding a 2-hour block Fun & Fitness program, adding some classes with various levels (beginner and advanced), having more class choices and adding volunteer opportunities. TRO will submit a budget change for a few new options (overnight trips, more activities for adults) for next year based on feedback.

IDD Services Updates – Jennifer Acheson

- IDDS hired one support coordinator in August and just received approval to fill one of two more support coordination vacancies. The second supervisor position is still under recruitment.
- A handout for a transition fair “Moving on to Life in the Community” in Fairfax on October 10, 2013 was shared. This flyer was mailed to families of NVTC and CVTC residents last week.
- A letter from St. Coletta to Woodmont Weavers and their families was shared. See attached.
- A handout about the HSRI “My Life, My Community” forums was shared. See attached.

CSB State Legislative Priorities Related to IDD Services – Carol Skelly

Skelly reviewed a letter to Arlington’s State legislative delegation (DRAFT – 9/18/13). See attached. The Virginia Network of Private Providers (VNPP)’s legislative advocacy plan is more cautious and conservative than that of the Arlington CSB. There has been discussion in the region and the State about limiting what we are requesting, in order to ask for State funding that is more realistic and in-line with what the rest of the State will be requesting. The sense is that if we ask for too much, we might not get anything. We will be reducing our request because fewer training center residents are asking to return to Arlington (several families reside elsewhere), and residential start-up needs may be less than anticipated earlier.

Arlington CSB Position and Recommendations:

1. Delay closure: We are continuing to advocate for the delay in closing Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC), but the pressure to delay will need to come from the legislature or the Independent Reviewer/DOJ. We are different than the rest of the state, since we have higher costs in Northern Virginia, and NVTC is one of the first training centers slated to close. The State has not delayed closing dates yet. It has been noted (from Joanna Wise-Barnes, not present at tonight’s meeting) that the tone of the last meeting with the State was positive. State representatives indicated to Northern Virginia CSB executive directors and ID directors that State funds to build community capacity in Northern Virginia might become available.
2. Start-up funds: Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) are available from Arlington’s Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development on a rolling application basis and could provide as much as \$500,000 per project. It is assumed that a residential provider will make use of these to open one new group home here, and that a residential provider might open a second group home here - leased from Scioto Disability Housing Corporation.
3. Delay making specific recommendations about the Waivers, because the State is doing an 18-month study. We need to go on record stating we cannot do this with the existing Waiver structure and rates.

We are looking to gain regional support for this letter, so these recommendations are not Arlington specific.

Question: What is the chance they will delay the closure of NVTC?

Comments:

- They are monitoring us closely. By this time people should have been given 2-3 choices of viable places to live and that has not been met because resources are not available to give that kind of choice.
- The Judge in Richmond can find at any point that the State is not meeting their end of the agreement. If there are more than 75 people who want to stay in training centers, the State said they might leave open two training centers rather than one.
- Some people have decided to go to other parts of the state; others want to move to other training centers. Only 8 want to come back to Arlington.
- Move recommendation #1 (delay closure) to #3 instead. We should tell them what we need first and then recommend the delayed closure at the end of the letter.
- Send Carol Skelly any suggested edits to the letter over the next few days.

Talking Points – Carol Skelly & Lucy Beadnell

Skelly distributed and referred to a hand-out titled “Arlington Community Services Board Background and Recommendations for the ID/DD Waiver October 2013.”

There was more discussion about the HSRI Public Meetings on Waivers.

Comments:

- We need as many Arlington residents in attendance at the Waiver forums as possible. If you want to go, Carol suggested emailing her so it can be coordinated.
- We should try to present the issues that are unique to Arlington, trusting that the other issues will be brought up by others.
- The most important points are: The Northern Virginia cost differential means that services cost more here than the State average; operating expenses are not covered by the Waiver and have historically been covered by some localities; we have three 8-person ICF/IIDs which serve individuals with intensive needs, but not as intensive as some coming from the training centers.

Beadnell distributed and referred to a letter titled “Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Human Services Research Institute,” which includes The Arc’s talking points for the Waiver forums. See attached.

New Business

One of the committee members mentioned planning her schedule around the first Wednesday of the month in order to attend the ID Committee meetings. She requested that if it can’t be the first Wednesday, a Tuesday or Thursday meeting is considered instead of the second Wednesday of the month. Co-chair made a commitment to try to keep it on the first Wednesday of each month as the calendar allows.

Approval of October Minutes

The ID committee approved these minutes as written at its November 6, 2013 meeting. Some committee members mentioned a preference for the format used for the October minutes, including bullets. These minutes will be submitted to the full CSB at its November 20, 2013 meeting.