

**ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**  
**Mental Health Committee**

October 23, 2013  
Approved 12/4/13

**Committee Members Present:** Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Richard Smith, Brian Berke, Caroline Bragdon, Scott Brannon, John Blount, Susan Lowry, Debra Byrd, Lee Long

**Committee Members Absent:** Sam Howlett, Betsy Greer, Ann Wroth, Tom Quinn

**Staff Present:** Alan Orenstein, PhD, Joanna Wise-Barnes

**Others Present:** Carol Skelly, Steve Stewart, Valeria Stewart, Joyce Kelly (Transition Coordinator), Sarah Peterson (Autism Society), Jim Mack

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the September minutes without correction.

**MH Director's Report:** As requested at the last meeting, Dr. Orenstein solicited by e-mail comments from Committee members on a list of previously suggested ideas and additional topics for the 12/4/13 and 1/22/14 meetings, but none were received. Also, Dr. Orenstein distributed to Committee members by e-mail the latest MH Committee FY15 budget priorities draft for comment, and requested further information from Ms. Weisman to justify the additional Crisis Center staff; this is being drafted.

Dr. Orenstein distributed the flyer for the upcoming Family and Support Network Orientation 11/12/13. He reviewed an e-mail from Ms. Kemp describing confidentiality required of staff and CSB Board and committee members. Finally, Dr. Orenstein described the upcoming changes in Medicaid MH Support Services eligibility effective in December and rate changes effective in July. It is expected that the rate change will reduce Medicaid revenue to support service vendors.

**Chairs' Report:** The Committee reviewed the draft meeting schedule with the goal of finalizing the scheduled presentations and/or visits. There were a number of remaining possibilities noted in previous meetings. In addition, Ms. Deane suggested a few others. After discussion, the following were accepted: visit to emergency services 12/4 and visit to the jail MH program 1/22/20. Other possibilities were a shelter visit and an update of program changes in Clarendon House. The possibility of not having a joint meeting with the SA Committee was discussed, allowing the scheduling of one of these additional options. Action: Dr. Orenstein will contact Emergency Services and the Jail MH Program Director to arrange a visit, and he inform the membership of arrangements for the 12/4 meeting. He will also contact the SA Committee staff liaison, Joe Bullock, regarding the SA Committee's interest in having a joint meeting the year.

The Co-chairs reviewed revisions in the Committee's FY15 priorities. Some of the revisions are: deletion of the PACT Support place-holder, combining MH services in the jail and CIT Coordinator into a Forensic service category, and reducing the request from 2 to 1.5 homeless outreach staff. This is an ongoing process and the priority listing is not final.

**Announcements:** None

**Joint Meeting with the ID Committee:** After the introduction of those attending, Ms. Deane suggested that two issues for discussion might be: the difficulty in working with some dually diagnosed (MH/MD) clients, as evidenced for example by one or two people in the Extended Barriers List; and secondly, the possible applicability of the EDGE program for young adults to people with autism. Ms. Wise-Barnes noted that about 58% of ID clients have a mental health diagnosis and that they had on staff a therapist trained to work with dually diagnosed clients. Dr. Orenstein explained the agreement for primary responsibility for dually diagnosed clients, per an MH- IDD service agreement. There followed some discussion of the difficulties encountered in providing service when there are behavioral problems. Ms. Skelly noted that a major issue was the apparent gap in services available to people in the autism spectrum. One parent attested to the problems that faced families with an autistic child and the lack of available County services particularly after leaving school. The parents of another child agreed. Ms. Peterson recommended checking with the Fairfax SPARC program. Ms. Skelly suggested that data be collected to determine the number of people with autism, as an indicator of service need, as a start. And she indicated she would do some initial research into this. During the conversation, Dr. Orenstein and Ms. Wise-Barnes clarified that service to the population is not a State ID service mandate and outside the target population for MH services.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm