

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

June 9, 2014

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge (on phone), Earl Conklin, Joanne Del Toro, Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Dusty Sparrow, Linda Staheli, Marguerite Tomasek

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Shauna Alonge. The group welcomed Joanne Del Toro, prospective new member.
2. Minutes: The May minutes were finalized and will be sent to the larger CSB.
3. Monthly statistics: numbers for fiscal year 2014 through May were circulated and discussed. Total numbers served were up slightly from the previous month, with intakes continuing at a heavy pace. Discussion focused on increasing the number of community presentations to spread the word about children's behavioral healthcare services available through the CSB. Several ideas were discussed, including contacting the Federation of Civic Associations. Linda Staheli will reach out to the chair of that group to begin the process of developing a presentation. The group also discussed the importance of early planning for the annual APS/DHS/NAMI forum on mental health, which has had good turnout in the past and some engaging presenters.
4. Program review table: Tom Wallace circulated the updated program review table, which is reviewed in the committee annually. Budget figures for fiscal year 2015 were added, and staffing levels and projected numbers of clients served were updated. As the outcome measures are completed, the numbers will be shared with the committee. This document will also be used by the committee in planning for budget priorities in fiscal year 2016.
5. Action plan: An updated behavioral healthcare action plan was circulated. Committee members stressed the importance of high-level collaboration between the County Manager's office and the School Board. This document will continue to be reviewed at each committee meeting.
6. New business:
 - Dusty Sparrow provided perspective on clients she sees in the public defender's office. Discussion focused on the need to provide services to parents, who often are not equipped to respond to behavioral challenges. Ms. Sparrow stressed the importance of early intervention with these families, and noted that a disproportionate number of children she works with are coming from Kenmore Middle School. Shauna Alonge suggested that we outreach Kenmore to brainstorm ideas to address the issues. Members of the committee shared their perspectives on the importance of early intervention. DHS's Behavior Intervention Services (BIS) program provides behavior-focused services to parents, and is operating at capacity at present. Expansion of this program, especially to include a bilingual staff person, may be something for the

committee to support. The committee also discussed current services that involve parents in the treatment process, including outpatient services, the Strengthening Families Program, and home-based services (generally funded with Medicaid or Comprehensive Services Act dollars).

- Linda Staheli and Betsy Greer led the discussion on some of the services available for parents through NAMI, including Family to Family and NAMI Basics. Information about these programs will be useful as a resource for staff at the CSB, the courts and the schools.
- Betsy Greer provided information about the governor's mental health task force, which is looking for comments from the grass roots about how to proceed. Ms. Greer circulated some sample comments and talking points, which will be e-mailed to the committee.

7. Old business:

- Tom Wallace provided an update on the crisis stabilization project. Final licensure from the state is expected to be complete on June 12, with services to be available immediately. Staff from the vendor is reaching out to the emergency services staff at each of the CSBs in the region to begin the rollout process. The initial focus is on getting emergency services on board. Information about the service will then roll out to community partners, including schools, courts, and families.
- Vacancies: One of the five vacant positions in the Children's Behavioral Healthcare bureau has been moved to adult services. Of the four remaining vacancies:
 - Two have been hired. One has started; the other will start in late June.
 - One position has been filled by a current staff person, moving from a 30-hour to a full-time position. The vacant 30-hour position has moved to the hiring slow-down list and will be recruited when allowed (with the hope of finding funding for an additional 10 hours).
 - One position is a bilingual, substance-abuse-focused therapist, partially funded with substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant funding. The most recent recruitment did not result in any appropriate candidates. A new announcement will go out, focusing on this position, and allowing for trainee-level staff (those without two years of post-master's experience).
- Therapist salaries: the County has completed a study of the pay scale for mental health therapists, and has developed two, higher pay scales: one for non-licensed staff, and one for licensed staff. All therapists have received an increase in their pay. As staff become licensed, they will receive an immediate raise and will be moved to the higher pay scale.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, July 7, at 4:00 p.m., in room 107 at the Drewry Building.