

# INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY COMMITTEE OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

## Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2014

DHS Building, Sequoia Complex, 2100 Washington Boulevard, Room C, Arlington VA

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by committee co-chair Barbara Jones.

**Introductions** – Brian DeAtley and Barbara Jones, CSB members and committee co-chairs; committee members and guests Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Donna Budway, Ann Kelly, Moira Saucedo, Carol Skelly, Alex Yellin, and Casey Youman; provider staff members Kris Hollins of Community Residences, Michelle Lange of Linden Resources, Kenan Aden of MVLE, and Brenda Richardson of ServiceSource; Lucy Beadnell of The Arc of Northern Virginia; IDDS staff member and committee liaison Joanna Wise Barnes

### Agenda Items

**The Arc of Northern Virginia** – Lucy Beadnell reviewed information from the attachment titled The Arc of Northern Virginia's April 2014 Legislative Update.

**Approval of March Minutes** – The minutes of the committee's March 5, 2014 meeting and attachments were reviewed and approved by the committee as submitted. These minutes will now be included in the packets of CSB members for their April meeting.

**March Meetings with County Board Members** – Barbara Jones relayed information about two meetings – one with County Board Chair Jay Fisette and Vice Chair Mary Hynes, during which she didn't get an opportunity to discuss the ID committee's fiscal year 2015 request for \$25,000 – and a second meeting with County Board members J. Walter Tejada and Libby Garvey. During the latter meeting Barbara Jones had time to explain why the ID committee is advocating for \$25,000, to purchase additional job development services from non-profit agencies, with a goal of increasing employment opportunities for individuals with ID/DD. Barbara Jones opined that these two County Board members appeared to be receptive to the request for additional job development funds.

Brian DeAtley stated that he attended the County Board's annual budget hearing. He made a presentation about the same funding request for \$25,000 in fiscal year 2015, to increase job development for adults with ID/DD. DeAtley indicated that County Board members appeared to be engaged during his two-minute speech, and seemed to be aware of the need for more jobs for persons with ID/DD.

Carol Skelly suggested that committee members call or email the County Board to advocate for this request.

### Staff Reports

**IDD Services Updates** – Joanna Wise Barnes

- **Cooperative Agreements** – Agreements between IDDS and DARS - and IDDS and APS - were distributed, reviewed, and approved by the committee. See attached; Joanna encouraged committee members to contact her about any questions or concerns regarding the agreements.
- **Staffing Updates** – IDDS has one vacancy for a Support Coordinator; recruitment will begin soon.
- **Job Development Initiative** – As explained in an earlier meeting, IDDS dedicated \$25,000 during the last three months of fiscal year 2014 to fund addition job development. Three additional individuals began receiving job development services this month. More will follow.

- **Regional Recommendations about Waiver Rate Study** – See attachment titled **Comments on Burns and Associates Rate Setting Proposal**. The document was written by the ID directors in this region and submitted for consideration by Burns and Associates and Virginia’s Office of Developmental Services.
- **Expansion Plans for Residential Services in Arlington** – Joanna met with two residential providers still interested in opening new group homes in Arlington. She also met with one of the providers and with a representative from the County’s Community Planning and Housing Department (CPHD). A second meeting with CPHD is pending soon.

### **New Business**

Ann Kelly told the committee that she, her son, and Joanna will have dinner at one of the L’arche group homes on April 16. She talked about art, theater, music, and restaurant, and job opportunities available in New York for persons with ID/DD. She described her recent visit to an adult education program in Richmond (which has a similar one in Fairfax). And she conveyed information from her visits to two job sites in Arlington – one being Linden Resources where Chris Reed is director of printing. Committee members were encouraged to funnel print jobs to Linden, to increase employment opportunities for Arlington workers who have disabilities. Ann Kelly also visited the Woodmont Weavers in Ballston Common Mall, where St. Coletta of Greater Washington is trying new product development and marketing techniques to increase sales.

Kenan Aden of MVLE added that MVLE uses Linden Resources to do document destruction for them.

There was a robust discussion of public school training and job preparation for special education. Participants included Barbara Jones, Lucy Beadnell, Kenan Aden, Donna Budway, Carol Skelly, and Chuck Adkins-Blanch. Joanna reported that Barbara had given her a list of questions about the school career exploration and preparation process. Joanna conveyed these to Arlington Public School staff and will share answers with the committee when received. Barbara Jones encouraged vocational vendors to email her their needs, and comments about what preparation they believe the special education students need, in order for providers to help them find jobs. Kenan Aden stated that he would share systematic change ideas in the future. He pointed out the difficulty in predicting what job market demands would be four years in advance, when students are beginning exposure to jobs and training.

Barbara Jones, Donna Budway, Kenan Aden, Ann Kelly, and Kris Hollins participated in readdressing earlier visits by some committee members to the SPARC program sites in Fairfax. Points made included:

- Whether it’s worth exploring and needed in Arlington
- The need for one or two very involved parent volunteers to initiate and maintain it
- If a site offering free space would be available, perhaps in churches
- How it would impact existing day support programs
- The unique alternative it would offer, especially for forming new friendships
- How it would impact/reduce EDCD Waiver services in homes, if service hours were used in SPARC

The committee decided to invite Lucia Claster, an Arlington parent and Donna Goldbranson, the SPARC executive director to speak at its June meeting.

Carol Skelly discussed a letter she is writing and will send as a private citizen to the judge monitoring Virginia’s settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. She intends to copy an attorney from the Department of

Justice as well as the independent reviewer tasked with monitoring implementation of the settlement agreement. She plans to point out that Arlington is unable to provide housing for eight NVTC residents who want to live in the community because the State has not offered adequate start-up or operating funds to the service providers who want to establish homes. She will ask that steps be taken to ensure that the eight individuals can move to the community before NVTC closes.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. The committee's May 7, 2014 meeting will feature program reviews of all IDD services – support coordination, family support, residential, habilitation/supported employment, transportation, therapy, and psychiatry.

**Approval of April Minutes** – The ID committee approved these minutes as drafted, during its meeting on May 7, 2014. The minutes will now be submitted to the full CSB during its May 21, 2014 meeting.