

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

May 28, 2014

Approved June 25, 2014

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Brian Berke, Debra Byrd, Tom Quinn, Richard Smith, John Blount

Committee Members Absent: Sam Howlett, Susan Lowry, Betsy Greer, Ann Wroth, Scott Brannon, Caroline Bragdon, Lee Long,

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Anita Friedman

Guests: Joanne DelToro, Matt Foley, Public Defender, Dayna Belfiore, Sentencing Advocate

Call to Order: Ms. Deane called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the April minutes with amendment to include comments by Ms. Deane.

Introductions & Mental Health Court: Since there were a number of visitors, Ms. Deane suggested introductions. She asked also that Mr. Foley describe the activities of a Criminal Justice Review Committee's subcommittee formed to study the initiation of a mental health court. He said that it is in the early stages of study and will require authorization either through legislation or by the state supreme court. A study by the Bureau of Justice Assistance on Problem Solving Courts is expected to come out in August. There are currently 6 mental health courts in Virginia, with different structures and mandates, including courts in Richmond and Roanoke. In early June Mr. Foley and Leslie Weisman will travel to Richmond with Judge Kelly to observe the workings of the mental health court there. Mr. Quinn noted that as a participant in the Criminal Justice Committee, he knows how long it can take to establish a new court, but he has seen substantial initial progress. Ms. Deane added that the Mental Health Committee appreciates the initiative and stands ready to help.

Budget Priority Discussion: As background to the consideration of FY16 budget priorities, Dr. Orenstein distributed a MH program organizational diagram illustrating the scope of the MH Committee and a detailed Program Summary. He suggested that members also recall their experience visiting or hearing presentations from a number of the MH programs over the past year. He then provided a brief description of each MH program and oriented the members to the details of the Program Summary. Finally, he distributed FY15 budget priority material including the Committee's recommendations last year and the final CSB priority listing and justification.

Ms. Deane and Ms. Hermann noted that the CSB's FY 15 advocacy was not as successful as has been typical, and of the MH priority items, only the one-time funding for the CIT

position was included in the FY15 budget. The Chairs proceeded to overview the recommendations from last year, noting that some items were no longer relevant (Emergency fund to be provided from the existing budget, PACT support which was otherwise addressed, and homeless outreach staff which was included in the budget by DHS). Since there was sufficient time remaining, the Committee then reviewed the relevant final CSB budget priorities in more detail concluding with a preliminary recommendation to include, not include or modify the items, as follows:

- 1 FTE CIT Coordinator: included with discussion of charging for any of the training expenses, in response to County comments during this year's budget advocacy.
- 1 FTE MH Therapist in emergency Services: included pending determination of a Client Services Entry (CSE) Bureau state grant application
- 1 FTE MH Jail Case Manager: included
- 4 FTE MH Peer Support specialists: included pending further discussion of the number, since a peer was included in the CSE grant application
- .5 FTE Psychiatric Nurse: included
- .2 FTE Psychiatrist: included with questions about the original proposal for full time merit positions and the current appointment wait times

Action: Dr. Orenstein will determine if Dr. Larson is seeking full time merit psychiatric staff and the wait times to see a psychiatrist.

MH Director's Report: None

Chairs' Report: Ms. Herman noted that she would like to schedule a presentation next year by the senior adult MH program. Dr. Orenstein noted that at least the initial presentations for next year should be decided at the June meeting, and we could start with the senior adult programs as early as September. Ms. Deane said that one of the goals of the June meeting is to take a look at all the programs the committee needs to oversee, and make sure we are getting to them all. Another goal is to have a brainstorming session to consider whether the committee's priorities make sense, whether there are other issues the committee should be looking at, and whether there are ways of structuring the committee's work more efficiently. The chairs will prepare an agenda for discussion that will be distributed for comments before the next meeting.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm