

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

June 25, 2014

Approved 10/1/14

Committee Members Present: Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Susan Lowry Tom Quinn, Richard Smith, Debra Byrd

Committee Members Absent: Sam Howlett, Betsy Greer, Ann Wroth, John Blount, Judy Deane, (Co-chair), Brian Berke, Scott Brannon, Caroline Bragdon, Lee Long

Staff Absent: Alan Orenstein

Guest: Dayna Belfiore

Call to Order: Ms. Hermann called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the May 28 minutes with amendment after a motion by Mr. Smith that was seconded by Ms. Lowry. The reference to the "Virginia Bar Association" should be changed to the Bureau of Justice Assistance Problem Solving Courts."

Agenda and Calendar

Plans for the September meeting were discussed. Ms. Hermann suggested and it was agreed that we begin with Senior Adult Mental Health Services and related programs, such as RAFT and Mary Marshall. This is an area not reviewed this past year. If it is not possible to schedule this program for the first meeting, then the list of programs which have not been reviewed this past year should be consulted. The date of the September meeting will be postponed one week to October 1. Further planning for the schedule of programs and any calendar adjustments (e.g., rescheduling November's meeting to early December) are tabled until the next meeting. If it would be helpful, an email questionnaire could be sent about the calendar and the program schedule beforehand.

The Committee discussed how they should prioritize. First we raised questions about the topics not covered this past year:

- Are there other issues about Mental Health and Aging of which we should be aware?
- What is the involvement/intended involvement of Peers in the PACT team?
- Is there any plan to move residents out of the Group Homes?
- Could we hear about the Outpatient teams?
- Has the remodeling at Access House affected the program?

Ms. Byrd commented that based on her finding the Committee programs this past year very informative, she thinks it's important that we do hear about the other programs and, whenever possible, do site visits.

Ms. Lowery recommended that when possible, two topics should be scheduled for greater efficiency. Also, the Committee discussed what else to consider in setting the Committee's

priorities. A suggestion was made that the Committee send a questionnaire to the programs to ask about issues/problems and needs so that we would have that information early on and not have to wait for the presentations. The thought is that if we have the information up front, there is less chance of missing something. This would then help us set our priorities, our programs, and our advocacy.

Additional meeting topics were also discussed, and these included:

- Mental Health Courts – the investigation into this possibility is being organized by a subcommittee of the Mental Health Criminal Justice Review Commission.
- Affordable Housing Issues
- Mental Health First Aid
- Update on Autism Services

Mental health and aging was mentioned as an additional Ad Hoc Committee topics?

The Committee considered how the meetings were organized; is there a need to adjust our meetings? There was general satisfaction with the current format. The comment was offered that “if it’s not broke, don’t fix it”, that a change is not necessary.

Finally, the Committee discussed the Committee advocacy process. There was general satisfaction with how this is approached.

Mental Health Director’s Report: Dr. Orenstein reported to Ms. Hermann, in response to a question raised at the last meeting, that Dr. Larson is not currently pursuing full-time merit position for psychiatrists.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next meeting will be 6:00 PM, October 1, 2014, Room 201Drewry Center.