

Arlington Community Services Board (CSB) – Children and Youth Committee
February 23, 2015

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge (Chair), Earl Conklin, Joanne Del Toro (by telephone), Asha Patton Smith (by telephone), Linda Staheli, Marguerite Tomasek

Speakers: Fredy Martinez (DHS Court Liaison), Caitlin Tracy (Intake Supervisor), Shannon Moore (Juvenile Probation Supervisor), Lt. Ron Files (School Resource Officer), Sgt. Rick Rodriguez (School Resource Officer)

Staff: Heather D. Stowe (Division Chief), Laura Ragins (Behavioral Health Supervisor), Bonita Parker (minutes)

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Shauna Alonge.
2. **Minutes:** The December minutes were sent to the CSB. January's meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.
3. **The Arlington Police School Resource Unit: Lieutenant Ron Files and Sargent Rick Rodriguez, School Resource Officers (SROs).** Following an explanation of the committee's interests by Division Chief Stowe, Lt. Files and Sgt. Rodriguez spoke to the group about issues they've seen involving youth of Arlington from September until now. SROs maintain a social media presence, as well as use other methods like text messaging, to gather information regarding youth activities. They identified a suspected drug dealer and 3 suppliers at 3 schools. They tracked approximately 1,200 text messages while identifying these people. In three of the last four weekends there has been a decrease in drug related issues. However, SROs are now seeing pills, but haven't seen heroin use yet. It's coming. There's more use in neighboring localities. Lt. Files and Sgt. Rodriguez noted that there can be difficulty interacting with some parents when there has been an incident involving substance use. For instance, when police were called to a recent party and found use of alcohol by youth some parents questioned police behavior rather than the underage drinking taking place at the party.

Lt. Files and Sgt. Rodriguez also noted confusion among youth regarding marijuana and e-cigarettes. They noted that young people are creative in substance use. Some know about and may have tried such mixtures as orange juice, Nyquil and Xanax. In cases like the recent party, SROs/police may discuss options like Second Chance. SROs also work to inform principals about Second Chance and other options. SROs may also get information about domestic violence. It was noted that CFSD usually also receives information about police involvement with young people like the party mentioned. Dr. Stowe/CFSD will follow-up regarding that particular party because a teen was unsupervised for 4 days, there was underage drinking, an unconscious teen and a broken vase. There was also some discussion regarding physical assault and special needs young people.

- 4. Arlington County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Intake Unit: Caitlin Tracy, Supervisor.** Ms. Tracy noted that following police involvement youth may come into contact with her. Some youth may be diverted from court involvement like those with substance abuse or status offenses like runaways. These young people may receive services and may receive something like probation before seeing a judge. Young people with a possession offense may be diverted to programs like Second Chance or Substance Abuse Treatment.

Second Chance. This program offers the opportunity for young people and their parents to participant in a 3-day event and a later booster session. Participation allows young people to avoid court involvement and accommodates young people age 15 to 17 years old, but increasingly accommodates middle school youth. It can be available in Spanish, but typically Spanish speakers are accommodated in other ways due to the length of time it takes to have enough Spanish speakers for an entire Second Change event.

Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS). This is another alternative to court involvement. It is a step up from diversion and may be used with young people with offenses related to mental health or substance abuse. These young people may or may not be assigned a probation officer. Ms. Tracy noted that there are varying responses to young people with mental health issues.

- 5. Arlington County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Juvenile Probation Unit: Shannan Moore, Supervisor.** Ms. Moore discussed officer training which includes CIT and DCJS. Ms. Moore also continued the conversation about the process in place for addressing youth involvement with police. She did note that there has been a change from seeing more boys, but now seeing more girls. There were more girls at the weekend party. There are more and more girls engaged in videoing, sexting, leaving home without permission and hanging out in large groups. The midnight unit, FORs, has noted this as well.

Ms. Moore later discussed processes, instruments, and staff of the unit. Staff are trained to get in, screen, and assess youth. The primary measure used is called the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), a trauma screen. It includes 10 domains and includes questions regarding separation of parents, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. YASI is used statewide and has been in place about 6 years. It is completed within 45 days and results are included as a part of supervision plans. Attitude, goal setting, employment are addressed. Information such as legal history, family, schools, trusted adults, peers, community, alcohol/drug use, mental health, violence, aggression is gathered as well. The focus is on moderate and high risk with increased attention to services. Probation staff has a mix of

training including psychology, social work, and criminal justice. They are really looking at other services and methods (e.g., motivational interviewing) too.

6. **DHS Court Liaison: Fredy Martinez, Supervisor.** Mr. Martinez continued the discussion regarding the process of addressing youth involvement with police and Courts. He provided an overview of his position, processes and services. He also provided referral source, demographic and diagnosis data in two handouts (see attached). He noted that it is a one hundred percent referral based program. Cases are mostly male of Latino and African American descent. Cases may involve a range of issues including undiagnosed learning disorders, alcohol, cannabis, anxiety, and depression. Mental health may be suggested as underlying issues for some cases. It was asked: How many ended up seeing the judge anyway after 60 days? Thirty-eight youth had not seen the judge 60 days later. This year four cases of meth use. Multiple services are available (e.g., counselor).

Collaboration Efforts. There is collaboration with everyone. There has been increased collaboration between DHS and Courts this year (4 meetings so far). However, there has been an increase in calls from schools counselors. A need for more collaboration was noted (e.g., schools). However, CFSD has liaison for schools. Mr. Martinez receives referrals from multiple sources at multiple stages of cases.

Finally, there was some discussion with Mr. Martinez regarding suggestions and parent support. He noted improvement in parent support and services that include them like parent education. Mr. Martinez also noted that referrals often include parents, IPE, and other home based services. However, it was suggested that he work with the Mental Health cadre and NAMI, especially regarding parent services. This led to a discussion of the disconnect in parent information regarding impact of calling the police regarding their youth and how it should be addressed.

7. **Other Comments:**

- In response to a question, it was reported that one in five youth are dyslexic.
- There was also discussion of human trafficking, noting an uptick in trafficking. The number of runaways depends on definition. It may be defined as a youth who have run away on two or more occasions. There have been a lot, especially in DC and MD.
- Yes, Behavioral Intervention Services (BIS) is very busy. There have been referrals.
- Dr. Stowe discussed a technical assistance grant regarding Systems of Care (SOC) that Arlington County could apply for offered by Georgetown University Juvenile Justice. It is very competitive and usually given to States, but Arlington may be able to make a strong case to receive the grant. Arlington has pieces of a SOC. Mr. Conklin and Ms.

Sparrow will review the information as well. It would require involvement of the Courts and CSB too.

- The Courts do have college internships, but no high school internships.
- Are there mentors for youth? The Partnership's Teen Network Board (TNB) has discussed it, but it is a current gap.
- Since the last meeting in December, the Committee had Salon at Linda Staheli's home.

Old Business:

8. **Meeting Schedule:** In March and April there will be joint meetings with Adult and Substance Abuse Services respectively. However, starting in May, meetings will be held on first Monday of the each month at 6:30, that is, May 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., room 138, 1st floor at the DHS Stambaugh/Sequoia building.