

Intellectual Disability Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board (CSB)
Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

DHS Building, Sequoia Complex, 2100 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA 22204, Room C

Introductions: The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. and was facilitated by CSB members and committee co-chairs Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly. Committee members and guests attending included Chuck, Adkins-Blanch, Brian DeAtley, Ann Kelly, Gail Taylor, David and Nancy Tishman, Alex Yellin, and Kevin Youman. Provider staff in attendance were Brittany Humphries of Community Residences, Michelle Lange and Donna Seering of Linden Resources, Lisa Morgan of Lutheran Family Services, April Pinch-Keeler of MVLE, Teri Bertsch of the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, and Carrie Cortez of Volunteers of America. Lucy Beadnell represented The Arc of Northern Virginia. Joanna Wise Barnes represented Arlington County's Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services.

Approval of December 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Draft minutes were distributed and reviewed by those in attendance. The minutes were approved as drafted and will be submitted to the full CSB at its February meeting.

The Arc of Northern Virginia: Lucy Beadnell distributed and reviewed the attached handout titled *The Arc of Northern Virginia's February 2015 Legislative Update*.

Project SEARCH:

Donna Seering, Workforce Services Director, Linden Resources

Teri Bertsch, Counselor Manager, Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Three handouts were distributed and are attached – *Project SEARCH Frequently Asked Questions*, *Project SEARCH: Our Story*, and *'PROJECT SEARCH' STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH NEW JOB SKILLS*. The two guest speakers made the following points:

- From their website: "Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's to over 300 sites across the United States and Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities".
- Project SEARCH is a partnership between a school system (which takes the lead), a business (the host), DARS, and a private provider paid by DARS.
- The model includes a one-year internship for about nine (up to 12 maximum) students (17 to 22 years old) in their last year of school, who leave the classroom to study and work at the host business.
- Each student's team includes a family member, special education teacher (on-site at the business), a paraprofessional, and a job coach.
- Students are interns, have three types of work experiences during the year, and are not paid. There is no guarantee of a job at the end of the year. Job coaches help them seek employment.
- There is interest in expanding Project SEARCH for the 2016-17 school year; it takes nine months to a year to develop a new project.
- The school must take the lead on new project development; more than one school district may collaborate to develop a new project.
- Schools often collaborate with hospitals on Project SEARCH because hospitals have job diversity. Universities also make good partners because they have diverse jobs.

- Matthew Dean is the DARS staff person with primary responsibility for Project SEARCH, and he may be available for future presentations. DARS has set aside funding for this project.
- Jennifer Todd McDonough, Associate Director of Training and Virginia Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator from Virginia Commonwealth University, jltodd@vcu.edu; would also be an important person to contact regarding project development, as she is the statewide coordinator.

Proclamation Planning: Committee co-chair Barbara Jones reported that the IDD proclamation event will still be on the first Tuesday of March as before. This year it will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. It will differ from earlier years though; it will be smaller and by invitation. The crew of one long-time enclave will be honored – the three individuals who detail Arlington County vehicles on site at the County Trades Center, supported by MVLE, Inc. The three crew members and three MVLE staff members will be honored, as will the County’s Department of Environmental Services Equipment Bureau staff members who have been so supportive of the crew members over many years. It is expected that one County Board member will attend to read the proclamation and to give certificates of appreciation.

IDDs Updates: Joanna Wise Barnes distributed one hand-out from The Arc of Northern Virginia, attached, titled *Transition to Employment*. She encouraged families to participate in the February 28th workshop. She also shared the following information:

- The Virginia Department of Behavioral and Development Services (DBHDS) updated the format for Person Centered Plans; individuals and families will see the new plans from Support Coordinators beginning April 1, 2015.
- IDDS hosted an Employment First Forum in January. Speakers were from DBHDS and from DARS. Most Support Coordinators attended as did eleven staff members from Arlington Public Schools. Three providers sent staff – MVLE, Saint Coletta, and ServiceSource.
- IDDS is fully staffed. The Bureau Chief’s position has been posted in anticipation of Joanna’s retirement. If a successful candidate isn’t found at the end of the posting period, a recruitment firm will be hired to do a nation-wide search. The intent continues to be to hire prior to Joanna’s May retirement.
- Seventeen individuals are in competitive employment with the assistance of a job coach. Nine others are receiving job development from providers funded by IDDS; others receive job development funded by DARS. There is adequate funding to continue job development through June 30, 2015. It is also expected that funding for job development will be sufficient in Fiscal Year 2016 which begins July 1, 2015.
- In response to an earlier question, Joanna reported that most discharges from Northern Virginia Training Center since the 2012 settlement agreement have returned to their CSB of origin (26). Nine have discharged to another Northern Virginia CSB. Twenty-seven others have discharged to other locations in Virginia with the approval of family members and guardians. Reasons for leaving Northern Virginia to go to other areas of the Commonwealth include to be closer to family members or guardians who no longer live here.

New Business:

Committee co-chair **Barbara Jones** reported that she spoke to General Assembly members on the budget committee in early January, and reviewed with them the attached document titled *Arlington CSB Priorities for the General Assembly*. Priorities emphasized were the need for additional ID Waiver slots, and the need to increase the differential of the Northern Virginia reimbursement rates for ID Waiver services beyond the current 15%.

April Pinch-Keeler, President and CEO of MVLE, reported that MVLE has opened a new Community Center with a goal of addressing the many federal, state, and local changes related to employment. Those include the DOJ settlement agreement, Employment First, and the CMS Final Rule. MVLE is involving the community and business partnerships in their new design. These new partnerships are intended to create employment opportunities in the community. The plan includes two-way integration in collaboration with GMU, ITT, and Stratford University, and others.

MVLE also had corporate partnership (Toshiba) for a KOVAR grant for a sensory/relaxation room for all to use as needed.

MVLE, vaACCSES, and other providers have supported the Northern Virginia regional Waiver rate budget request to align current proposed waiver rates with the existing northern Virginia regional rate setting methodology. Our goal is to bring awareness to what currently is underfunded even before we look forward to the proposed CMS/Final Rule and Waiver Redesign. Senator Favola supported this endeavor. (See attached letter.) vaACCSES supported the efforts to get the House to sign onto a similar letter in efforts to bring the same awareness to the issue.

As the General Assembly is nearing the end we also met with Senator Howell who supported language to be written into 301#1s to increase ID/DD waiver rates based on Virginia's own rate study. It would mean no additional funding at this time, but an inroad to present again next year. Senator Howell has been a budget conferee for the past several sessions and with several administrations. vaACCSES also supported DARS funding for LTESS dollars to be returned to earlier levels, for long-term employment supports.

Committee member **Ann Kelly** referred to a store in New York which is doing well and paying above minimum wages to employees who have disabilities. She will share details with the committee about that operation in upcoming meetings.

Brian DeAtley offered to share information with the committee about TASH, a disability advocacy organization whose efforts include increasing employment and eliminating sub-minimum wages.

The meeting ended about 8:40 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in room C on the lower level of the DHS building at 2100 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA 22204.

Approval of February 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

At its March 11, 2015 meeting (rescheduled due to inclement weather on March 4), the ID committee members reviewed and approved these minutes as drafted. They will be submitted to the full CSB at its next meeting on March 18, 2015.

