

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

January 7, 2015

Approved 1/28/15

Committee Members Present: Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Betsy Greer, John Blount, Debra Byrd, Susan Lowry, Brian Berke

Committee Members Absent: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Scott Brannon, Caroline Bragdon, Ann Wroth, Lee Long, Tom Quinn, Richard Smith, Sam Howlett

Staff: Alan Orenstein, Beth Tschopp, Leslie Weisman, Kelly Nieman, Marilyn Pasley

Guests: Alice Straker, Dayna Belfiore, Kathleen Wellington

Call to Order: Ms. Hermann called the meeting to order at the Drewry Building at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 12/3/14 minutes without correction.

Presentation: Ms. Weisman gave a brief overview of the Emergency Service and Discharge Planning programs. Ms. Pasley, Emergency Services supervisor, noted that the major change in the past year was starting to hold hearings at the Virginia Hospital Center for clients to be detained at the VHC, which is 90% of TDOs. Ms. Greer was very positive about this change and noted she was advocating for changes in law allowing 14 year olds to refuse treatment, so that there is notification of the CSB. She also related an anecdote regarding a young person previously discharged from the CSB who appeared to be deteriorating, by way of asking the role of emergency and outpatient services in follow-up. Ms. Pasley described their follow-up in these cases. In the course of discussion about the detention of children, Ms. Weisman noted the complexity of guidelines for dealing with minors. Ms. Greer concluded this was a topic for the Child and Family Committee.

Ms. Nieman described the staffing, role and services of the Discharge Planning program. The discharge planners work with the state psychiatric hospital to develop aftercare plans for hospitalized clients. She also described and detailed the Extended Barriers List (EBL) which was now 7 clients. She briefly reviewed the listed clients (anonymously), to illustrate the nature of the barriers presented.

Ms. Herman asked what the resource needs for these programs were. Ms. Weisman noted the need for 2 Emergency Services FTEs, funding for the aftercare placement of EBL clients, and funding for the CIT Coordinator.

Mental Health Director's Report:

In response to a request from legislators at the last Board Meeting, the Committee Chairs, Dr. Orenstein and Ms. Weisman met to discuss whether independent housing funds or DAP funds for an additional ICRT regional should be the priority. Ms. Hermann explained the difficulty in deciding that independent housing funds should be the priority and that while the independent housing funds will be communicated to the legislators, the Committee will continue to support and advocate for both items. The revived Young Adult Committee met 12/7/14. Dr. Orenstein noted the agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled for 2/25/15. A Group Home Committee was organized with a "charter"; members were solicited; and the first meeting was scheduled for 2/3/15 at 2 p.m. in the George Mason Center. Finally, Dr. Orenstein noted the upcoming Mental Health First Aid training information which was previously e-mailed to members.

Chair's Report:

Ms. Hermann invited members to join Group Home Committee. She described that the PACT Committee is sponsoring a staff appreciation luncheon Monday. In response to a question about budget timing from Ms. Greer, Ms. Hermann noted that the CSB will present to the County Board in March and that the original recommendations of the MH Committee are made in June. Ms. Greer recommended that the CSB Board send a letter to the Police Chief to support funding the CIT Coordinator position.

Ms. Hermann invited Kathy Wellington to provide an update on the clients in the Kensington building. She just returned from a visit to the building. She described that the clients are settling in and are very happy about the move. She noted also that the CR CEO resigned effective December and that CR expects to hire a replacement by March. Terry Hurley is covering in the meantime.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be 6:00 PM, January 28, 2015 in Room 201 Drewry Center.