

# ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 23, 2015

**Members Present:** Jenette O’Keefe, Jim Mack, Wes Sanchez, Len Fischer

**Members Absent:** Keith Whyte, Craig Dabney, Charlie Baughman, Pattie Aaron,  
Shawn Buckner

**BHD Staff:** Dr. Joe Bullock, Beth Tschopp

- I. **COUNTY BOARD BUDGET HEARING PROCESS:** Mr. Jim Mack provided a detailed overview of the Arlington County Advocacy Process along with the county budget process calendar with the committee. Committee members were reminded to “Save the Date” of Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm if they are planning to speak at the Arlington County Board budget public hearing. Key points emphasized included the Arlington County Board budget work session schedule along with some detail about the advanced sign up process for individuals interested in speaking at the upcoming public budget hearing. Ms. Jenette O’Keefe mentioned that there is an online option for sign-up in advance on the county board website and will update members with further details on this option. Ms. O’Keefe also informed committee members of the possibility to register members as a group for additional consideration if anyone is interested in this option. Lastly, committee members decided that there will be no March committee meeting as the budget public hearing takes place the same week as the SA committee meeting and members are encouraged to attend the hearing in lieu of the committee meeting.
- II. **SA COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT:** Mr. Jim Mack introduced Mr. Len Fischer as a new member joining the SA Committee. Mr. Mack also updated the committee regarding the status of the committee’s SA priorities. CSB Executive Director, Beth Tschopp, was introduced to the committee. Ms. Tschopp informed the committee that she informed the CSB Executive committee that she located funds in the current budget to cover the 1 FTE **Peer Recovery position** and coverage for the **ACT Unit Case Manager** requirement through reassignment/reorganization of current staff responsibilities. Therefore, the two identified priorities will no longer need an advocacy effort for the FY 16 budget process. Mr. Mack stated that the county manager did however put forward a recommendation for one time set-aside funding for the Arlington Drug Court as a part of her Strategic Investments proposal. The committee was encouraged to support this recommendation as the primary advocacy effort at the public hearing. Members agreeing to speak at the public hearing include Ms. O’Keefe, Mr. Fischer and Mr. Mack.
- III. **SA DIRECTOR REPORT:** Dr. Bullock reported to the committee that the Arlington Drug Court program is approaching their next wave of graduates from the program in the coming weeks and 4 participants will be completing the drug court program. Dr. Bullock will keep the committee informed on any graduation activities as planning for this event advances. Dr. Bullock also informed the committee that the SA Bureau will be getting a new Independence House. Dr. Bullock stated that the Arlington Planning Commission voted last weekend to recommend approval of the Gables site plan yesterday. The site plan includes building a new townhome and/or condo complex that will include a multi-level 14 bed unit to accommodate the Independence House program. The complex will be built to completion next to the current location of the program and will transition

the program prior to taking down the existing building. Dr. Bullock stated that there is currently not a definitive timeline for construction to begin. Lastly, Dr. Bullock announced that all Behavioral Healthcare Division programs located in the Drewry Center Complex will begin moving to the Sequoia Complex mid April 2015. The move will likely take about four months to complete and the new Sequoia location will be occupied as the floors are completed. A large number of staff and programs will move in April 2015. All planning for logistics and consumer notification is already underway.

**NOTE: No March meeting!** The next SA Committee meeting will be held on **April 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm and location to be determined.**