

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

May 27, 2015

Approved 9/30/15

**Committee Members Present:** Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Wayne Burt, Steven Gallaher, Debra Byrd, Richard Smith, Tom Quinn, Sue Lowry, Sam Howlett, Brian Berke, Jarrod Nagurka

**Committee Members Absent:** John Blount, Ann Wroth, Scott Brannon, Caroline Bragdon, Betsy Greer, Lee Long, Leslie Gosling, Joseph Briglia, Dayna Belfiori

**Observers:** none

**Presenters:** none

**Staff:** Alan Orenstein

**Call to Order:** Ms. Hermann called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the 4/29/15 with correction.

**FY17 Budget Discussion:** As background for the FY17 budget discussion, Dr. Orenstein distributed the organizational diagram describing the programs overseen by the Committee and a table detailing the mission, target population, staffing utilization and costs of each program. Using the organizational diagram as a guide, he described the admission process and the purpose and services of each program. Dr. Orenstein also distributed and reviewed the priorities for FY16 and those that were not addressed in the FY16 budget. After some discussion and on the request of the members, Dr. Orenstein listed the following needs noted by staff over the past year: peer specialists, MH Therapist for the jail; case manager for the outpatient teams, young adult team staffing for outreach and team leadership, a position for Senior Adult Mental Health, and a MH Therapist for emergency services. The Chairs noted that it is not yet clear what the CSB management's needs might be.

There was a brief discussion of what the budget request timing is this year, since Ms. Deane noted that Ms. Tschopp had mentioned that she might be willing to change the budget process and start later than has been the case. Action: Dr. Orenstein will clarify the budget process and timing. He will also determine if there are management priorities to be shared with the Committee.

**Mental Health Director's Report:** Dr. Orenstein distributed a written description of phases of the move to Sequoia 3. The first phase will include the MH Community Support Teams, Psychiatric Services, SA outpatient Teams, and Division Management on 5/29/15. Clarendon House will move 7/17/15 and PACT, Job Avenue, Emergency Services, and Intake will move 8/28/15.

Dr. Orenstein requested discussion of the Committee schedule for next year, preferences for the September meeting in particular. Tentative topics suggested: FY 17 budget; visit to the new shelter; a tour of the Sequoia 3 building and visit to the new emergency services center; and ACCESS program visit. Action: Dr. Orenstein will determine the feasible options (such as the shelter) and arrange the first meeting. He will also prepare a schedule template for further discussion at the September meeting.

As requested by Ms. Greer at the last meeting, Mr. Berke described the Arlington police procedure for the use of Tasers. Mr. Berke reviewed the policy line-by-line noting the conditions under which the Taser

should be used and not used. Generally, the Taser may be used to control a violent suspect when deadly force is not justified; attempts to subdue the suspect are not effective; and approaching the suspect would be unsafe. He also listed a number of circumstances in which its use is not allowed: to be punitive, awaken an unconscious or intoxicated person, if there is a known heart condition, the person is handicapped or a juvenile, etc. A mental health condition is not currently included as a handicap.

Ms. Deane asked Mr. Berke about the recent police shooting in connection with a domestic dispute, which resulted in the death of an individual, who according to press reporting, had schizophrenia. Mr. Berke noted it was still under investigation and could not reveal details of the investigation. However, he gave a fairly detailed account of the chronology of events based on public information. Ms. Deane asked whether, as part of the investigation, the CSB would inform the police whether the deceased had been receiving services from the CSB, and provide any records to the police. Dr. Orenstein said that the police would not be informed of this information after his death, since it was protected by HIPPA, but the police would have been informed during the course of the incident (if they had asked) because it would have been considered an emergency situation. Ms. Deane asked whether the CSB would be investigating the death as a “sentinel event.” Dr. Orenstein said that if the individual was a CSB client, there would be an investigation. Ms. Deane suggested that if the individual was not receiving services, the CSB should investigate why not, particularly since he was living in a housing complex that has a DHS office in its community center, and neighbors were apparently aware of his psychiatric issues. There followed a discussion of what kind of outreach occurs that might have engaged the deceased gentleman, if there were suspected mental illness. Dr. Orenstein described attempts to ensure general visibility of mental health services, connections with a range of referral sources, and outreach to homeless individuals.

**Chair’s Report:**

Ms. Hermann noted that if the Committee is able to submit local budget priorities in September, there will be no need for a June meeting. If there is any difficulty with this timing, email notice will be made for a special meeting or email discussion. Otherwise, the next meeting will be in September. She also noted that the Group Home Work Group is continuing to meet, as needed, in the summer. The PACT Advisory Council-sponsored picnic for PACT and Clarendon House is planned for 6/10/15. Ms. Hermann noted that her term as CSB Board member and MH Committee co-chair is ending this month. She will continue as a MH Committee member. She said she appreciated the opportunity to work with the Committee and thanked her Co-chair, committee members and the Mental Health Director for their efforts during her tenure. Mr. Bert has agreed to serve as co-chair with Ms. Deane.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.