

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

September 30, 2015

Approved October 28, 2015

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Jarrod Nagurka, Debra Byrd, Anne Hermann, Sue Lowry, Tom Quinn, Dayna Belfiori, John Blount

Committee Members Absent: Scott Brannon, Caroline Bragdon, Betsy Greer, Lee Long, Leslie Gosling, Joseph Briglia, Steven Gallagher, Richard Smith, Sam Howlett, Brian Berke

Observers: Alice Straker, Jim Mack, Jayne Baldwin, Mondonga Mokoli

Presenters: none

Staff: Alan Orenstein

Call to Order: Ms. Deane called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm Sequoia 3

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 5/27/15 minutes with correction.

Building Tour: Dr. Orenstein led the Committee members through the Sequoia 3 building beginning on the first floor. A representative of each major program provided a brief overview of the program as follows: Leslie Weisman (CSE), Mark Doering (PACT), Jose Campos (Job Avenue), Becky Wright (Clarendon House), Joe Bullock (SA), Mridu Tripathi (Psychiatric Services) and Sandy Clark (Teams A, B and C)

Committee Agendas and Schedule: Following the tour, on Ms. Deane's request, members and others present described their reasons for participating in the Committee and what they were looking for in Committee meetings and where they had suggestions about improving the format. There were no particular comments about the format. However, with regard to what they were looking for in the meetings, responses included the following: site visits, advocacy, learning about services or about programs in more depth, criminal justice, and community and County Board education.

There followed a discussion of the meeting schedule, particularly make-up dates for dates that would conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Members then proposed items for the remaining 9 to 10 scheduled meetings. These included: Jail MH program visit, Medical Director/Neighborhood Health presentation, Forensic services/MH docket presentation (these three were a priority), visit to the new shelter, visit to ACCESS crisis stabilization program, joint meeting with the Child and /or the SA committees, and intake presentation. There would also be 1 or 2 meetings devoted to FY 17 budget priorities. ACTION: Dr. Orenstein will arrange the meeting for next month from among the priorities and will draft a complete schedule for discussion at the next meeting.

Mental Health Director's Report: Dr. Orenstein noted that there was an open house for the new County shelter tomorrow. Also, after the meeting this evening, there will be a National Recovery Month event at Busboys and Poets. The reception begins at 6:30 and the program at 7 pm.

Chair's Report: Ms. Deane announced the following Committee meetings: Young Adult (10/22/15 at 3 pm), PACT (10/14/15 at 9 am), and MH Group Home (10/29/15 at 9 am). She also briefly described the advocacy that is being undertaken by the CSB and NAMI members in regard to the prospect of a land swap allowing Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) to acquire the Drewry/Edison property. She reported that CSB members have attended public hearings and have met with County Board member Mary Hynes to encourage the County to push for improvements in the psychiatric services offered by VHC as a component of the land swap arrangement. These include moving the psychiatric ward above ground and possibly seeking an expansion in the number of beds, and/or establishment of a unit for children and adolescents. Advocates also had a conversation with Barbara Favola, who is a State Senator, former County Board member and advocate for improving mental health services in Virginia. Next step will be a special meeting of the CSB Board on October 13 at 6:00 pm to discuss the issue further.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.