

**Developmental Disability Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board
Meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

Room B, DHS Building, 2100 Washington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204

The meeting was called to order and facilitated by CSB members and committee co-chairs Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly.

Introductions – Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly, CSB members and ID committee co-chairs; committee members and attendees: Alex Soroko, Chuck Adkins-Blanch, Moira Saucedo, Cherie Takemoto, Anne Kelly, Nancy Tishman; staff representatives of service providers: Bethany Barr (Linden Resources), Michelle Brownlee (Linden Resources), Casey Youman (Linden Resources), Kaiheem Mason (St. Coletta), Anne Rule (Community Residences), Deborah Bauer (ServiceSource), Brenda Richardson (ServiceSource), Kenan Aden (MVLE), Katherine Reinoso (St. Coletta); Lucy Beadnell representing the Arc of Northern Virginia; and County staff members April Rosenthal (Parks and Rec – Therapeutic Recreation) and La Voyce Reid (DD Services)

Approval of November Minutes – The DD committee approved the December 2, 2016 minutes contingent on the following revisions:

- The following names should be added to the Introductions as being in attendance of the December meeting: Deborah Bauer, Anne Kelly, and Michelle Brownlee
- The Arc of Northern Virginia third bullet should read as: “Hoping to have (*a significant number of*) slots up front for DD Waiver recipients to mitigate risk of persons on the waitlist for several years dropping to the bottom of the list (*during redesign*); delete 4th bullet.
- Under staff updates the last five bullets should each be preceded to read: “The Committee requested. . .”

The Arc of Northern Virginia – Ms. Lucy Beadnell distributed and reviewed her hand-out entitled, “The Arc of Northern Virginia’s February 2016 Legislative Update” (Attached). The following were included in Lucy Beadnell’s highlights:

- New Senators and Delegates received a briefing on the Waiver Redesign;
- Proposal to transition EDCD recipients to the ID/DD Waiver if they are on the waitlist; this is getting some traction and support. The Arc of Northern Virginia will continue to monitor;
- The Arc has drafted a letter urging to keep proceeds from the sale of NVTC in the area.
- Local Town Hall meetings will continue through February with more to occur here in Arlington. This is a great opportunity to take part in the legislative process at the local level.
- The public hearing with Judge Gibney on the status of the DOJ Settlement Agreement was cancelled. This was a mutual agreement between the Court and DBHDS.
- The draft plan for Waiver redesign with service rates included is now open for public comment; will be sent to CMS after the public comment period* closes on Monday, February 29, 2016.

* The Committee agreed that it would submit a letter on behalf of the Arlington CSB advocating for higher reimbursement rates in Northern Virginia. Carol Skelly will draft the letter stating the Committee’s position on this matter.

- The Arc will host a housing workshop on April 6th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. (Flyer attached)

Proclamation Ceremony Updates – Barbara Jones shared that the planning for the annual “Including People with Developmental Disabilities” Proclamation Ceremony is underway. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016 and will begin at 8:30 AM with coffee and light refreshments. The program will begin at 9:00 AM. B. Jones added that this year’s Proclamation will highlight the opening of the two new group homes welcoming individuals from Virginia’s Training Centers and will specifically honor Community Residences, Good Neighbor Homes, Joanna Wise-Barnes, Connie Cochran (DBHDS), as well as Arlington Departments (i.e., Zoning and Planning) that were instrumental in the development and planning for the group homes. It was discussed that the flyer for the ceremony will be sent to active participants on the Committee’s mailing list.

The Proclamation Ceremony will take place in the County’s Board Room; the County Manager will give opening remarks and an Arlington Board Member will give the keynote address.

Employment First in Arlington County – This discussion, introduced by Barbara Jones and Carol Skelly, was intended to develop an agenda to expand and improve community-based employment opportunities in Arlington. The discussion included the following highlights:

- Role of DD Committee towards increasing focus on getting the County to redesign jobs in County Government
- Discussion on an ‘employer-needs’ survey developed by a group of Arlington parents several years ago to identify employers’ need here in Arlington; contact was initiated with a few George Mason University professors about the survey, though the final outcome was unclear
- Question raised about various employment start-up models; it was noted that there are a spectrum of models we could be looking at (e.g., Wild Flower).
- Caution was raised about models that look like Wild Flower, but are actually congregate employment settings
- Committee will need to combine Employment First goals with Arlington-specific priorities.

Staff Updates –

Therapeutic Parks and Recreation – April Rosenthal shared the following updates:

- Registration for the Department’s Summer Camp 2016 will be open February 17, 2016 for Arlington residents (March 2nd for non-residents)
- Family Fun Night continues the third Friday of each month
- Next “Family Skate Night” is scheduled for Feb. 27th

Relocation of the Woodmont Weavers and RFP – La Voyce Reid, Bureau Chief of DD Services, recapped information shared in the January meeting, including the “proposed” relocation of the program to the DHS Sequoia complex, and also shared the following updates:

- DD Services staff convened one-on-one meetings with the families/guardians of the Woodmont Weavers Program
- DD Services will convene monthly family sessions with a meeting scheduled for February 5th; the meetings will be used to gauge development of the scope of work for the RFP
- St. Coletta of Greater Washington advised the County that it will not continue to contract with the County as the provider of the Woodmont Weavers program

- The County will issue a quick quote contract to identify an interim provider for the Woodmont Weavers program; also plans to release a full RFP, which would have been necessary independent of the current provider. The plan is for there to be an overlap period with the current and new providers.
- The option of returning to Ballston Mall is not foreclosed, but the hope is that the Sequoia space will be successful in order to minimize further moves.
- The County Board did not meet in January due to the weather closing and thus a decision as to the location is pending at this time. It was reported that the Department anticipates this matter will be on the Board's agenda for its February meeting.

Discussion following the above Woodmont Weavers update included

- Mr. Kaiheem Mason expressed St. Coletta's disagreement with the County's plans to relocate the Woodmont Weavers program to the Sequoia complex because, in their agency's assessment, this location takes the program backwards, is too close to major highways, and decrease opportunities for retail sales and revenue
- There was renewed expression of interest in the Arlington Mill Community Center as a possible location for the program as raised by Alex Soroko. Mr. Soroko raised the feasibility of the program's retail store being located on the lower level with the production site being located on the one of the upper levels. La Voyce Reid reiterated that based on information available to the Department the Arlington Mill Center is not an option for relocating the program.
- St. Coletta's expects to establish a weaving program at its location in Alexandria. Mr. Soroko asked whether current program participants will have a choice of program location. Ms. Reid responded that the choice would be up to the participants and their families.
- The Committee discussed communication between the County and St. Coletta and urged the two parties to re-engage in conversation for the sake of the program's participants.

A vote on the latter was put forth by Committee Co-chair, Carol Skelly, and agreed to all in attendance with zero persons abstaining.

Vendor Reports

Linden Resources launched its new programs (Integrated Day Support and Career Readiness Transition) on January 1, 2016; 100% of the program's participants transitioned successfully. Linden is currently accepting new participants into both programs.

Community Residences opened its new group home in January. They received four individuals from NVTC and one from CVTC.

ServiceSource three individuals that recently transitioned from NVTC started at the CIC and are reported to be transitioning well.

ServiceSource will host a housing forum on March 3rd at 10:00 AM at its Oakton Office

New Business – No new business reported

The next regular DD Committee is scheduled Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm.