

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

December 2, 2015

Approved: 1/6/16

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Debra Byrd, Leslie Gosling, John Blount, Betsy Greer, Dayna Belfiore, Tom Quinn

Committee Members Absent, Caroline Bragdon, Lee Long, Richard Smith, Sam Howlett, Anne Hermann, Sue Lowry, Brian Berke, Joseph Briglia, Scott Brannon, Jarrod Nagurka

Observers: Kathy Wellington (CR)

Presenters: John Palmieri

Staff: Alan Orenstein

Call to Order: Ms. Deane called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm in Sequoia 3

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 10/28/15 minutes.

Presentation: Dr. Palmieri provided an overview of his background and role, the BHD's psychiatric services and the grant for Neighborhood Health general medical services. The Psychiatric Services Bureau provides office-based psychiatric services in the Behavioral Healthcare Division, Aging and Disability Services Division and Child and Family Services Division. Over 1700 clients are service yearly with about 10,000 appointments annually. There are 13 full and part time psychiatrists. In addition the Bureau provides associated nursing and pharmacy services.

Neighborhood health primary care. Funded by a SAMHSA grant in conjunction with Alexandria, Neighborhood Health operates a medical clinic in Sequoia 3. Since the start of the grant, about 1000 clients have been served, including 320 last year. The clinic serves a number of uninsured clients who would otherwise have no access to medical care. The clinic operates 2 days/week, and in addition to providing medical care it offers specialty service referrals. The SAMHSA grant ends September 2016 and a sustainability plan is under discussion which would likely require local funds. Committee members had questions about medical services in the jail (which is provided by the jail) and collaboration with VHC.

Mental Health Director's Report:

Dr. Orenstein reminded the Committee of the current draft schedule and noted that there were two unscheduled presentations or visits. The remaining options of interest were a visit to Mary Marshal, a visit to the new shelter, a presentation about intake, and joint meetings with SA or the Child Committees (There was a recent invitation from the Child Committee to meet jointly in May). After some discussion, the Committee decided to add a joint meeting with Child Committee 5/2/16 and arrange a visit to Mary Marshal with a concurrent presentation by Senior Adult Mental Health Services. On Dr. Orenstein's request, the Committee also discussed which time option (3 or 4:00 pm) was most desirable to visit the jail. Actions: Dr. Orenstein will follow- up with the following schedule-related actions:

- arrange the 1/6/16 jail visit for 4 pm with the tour starting at 4:30pm;
- finalize the time arrangements for a visit to ACCESS in January
- finalize the new shelter visit for February
- arrange the Mary Marshal visit and SAMH presentation in March

- and add a joint meeting with the Child Committee to the schedule

Regarding other items, Dr. Orenstein noted that the MH Bureau in partnership with the Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) Program submitted a grant application for funds to support additional PSH apartments. He also noted some of the initiatives that are being planned by the BHD Leadership Team: Zero Suicide, Intake, quality documentation training, dual diagnosis, and Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

Chair's Report: Ms. Deane reported that CSB advocacy concerning possible improvements in mental health care services at the Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) is continuing. The goal is to have VHC commit to specific improvements as part of the package under which VHC gains access to the Arlington County-owned land where the Drewry Center was located. Currently, the focus is on ensuring that CSB and NAMI members and CSB staff are represented in the commissions and committees that will be approving the different stages of the plan. Ms. Deane, Mr. Bert and CSB Chairman Jim Mack met recently with Virginia Senator Barbara Favola to discuss these issues. She is a former County Board Member, long-time advocate for mental health and paid lobbyist for Virginia Hospital Center. At the meeting she said that she believes that VHC management is serious about trying to improve mental health services at the hospital, including for children and teenagers.

She announced also that the CSB is collecting contributions for gift cards for clients at Mary Marshall and a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes will be provided.

Mr. Bert asked if the grant being sought by Ms. Weisman for TIC training for the police was connected to the BHD TIC initiative. Dr. Orenstein indicated it appeared to be, but he was not sure. (Dr. Orenstein later consulted Ms. Weisman who confirmed a grant for Police TIC training was being sought but that this was not directly a part of the BHD initiative). Ms. Greer asked what TIC was. Dr. Orenstein briefly explained it was an aspect of a recovery orientation, acknowledged the high frequency of trauma in clients' history, and was generally an approach with clients that recognizes this history.

Announcements: Ms. Byrd noted a symposium on the war on drugs at the Lomax Church this Saturday. Ms. Greer announced that the Clarendon House holiday party will be held at Spider Kelly's 12/16 12:30 to 3:00 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.