

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Mental Health Committee

2/10/16

Approved 2/24/16

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Debra Byrd, Leslie Gosling, John Blount, Betsy Greer, Dayna Belfiore, Tom Quinn, Anne Hermann, Jarrod Nagurka, Scott Brannon, Brian Berke

Committee Members Absent: Caroline Bragdon, Lee Long, Richard Smith, Sam Howlett, Sue Lowry, Joseph Briglia, Cathy Lewis

Observers: Lila Corey, Marguerite Tomasek

Presenters: Carolyn McWilliams, ACCESS Program Manager

Staff: Alan Orenstein

Call to Order: Ms. Deane called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm at the ACCESS residential program

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 1/6/16 minutes with amendment.

Presentation:

Ms. McWilliams gave the background of the ACCESS program. It is a 6 bed, two-week crisis stabilization program operated by Fellowship Health resources (FHR) in contract with the Behavioral Health Care Division. The program target clients who required more support than available in outpatient services and do not require inpatient care. It is intended as a diversion from inpatient and a step-down from inpatient. Ms. McWilliams described the programming. Dr. Orenstein clarified that about half the cost is now provided by the state and, therefore, the program does take appropriate non-Arlingtonians from within the region. There were a number of questions from a variety of Committee members. These included: questions about eligibility, staffing, the use of volunteers, meal preparation, relationships with case managers, etc. following the questions and answers, Ms. McWilliams provided a tour of the house.

In deference to the residents and the expectation of new admissions, the Committee adjourned and reconvened to the AME Zion Church nearby (on the invitation of Ms. Byrd) to complete committee business.

Mental Health Director's Report:

Dr. Orenstein reported that the BHD in partnership with the DHS Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) program was notified by DBHDS that it would be recipient of a contract totaling \$731, 000 over two years to provide permanent supported housing to 30 low income, seriously mentally ill adults. Dr. Orenstein noted that this might be relate to the draft Region 2 priorities in which the CSB Board last Spring supported this service. After the first two years, the contract is renewable annually for 3 years. This contract responds to a current waiting list of about 40 people.

Dr. Orenstein reported that arrangement have been made for the next meeting to be at the new Homeless Services Center on 2/24/16. The shelter is at 2020a 14th Street North and the meeting will start at 4 pm. There is room for the business meeting after the tour. D. Orenstein will send a reminder before the meeting. He noted also that Joe Bullock and Suzan Somerville will be at the meeting to any remaining questions about the jail medications.

Chair's Report:

Ms. Deane distributed and described relevant bylaws and policies related to the operation of the mental health committee. She concluded that these provided little detail but did include the broad functions of reviewing programs and operations and participating in training an orientation. There were brief comments regarding the adequacy of the orientation process. Ms. Dean then noted that a traditional function of the Committee is budget advocacy. This led to a wide-ranging discussion of what the budget proposal process was, the role of the Committee, and the authority and role of the CSB Board and Executive Director, the DHS Director and the County Board. There was also discussion of the information that was and should be available to inform the Committee as it considered budget priority recommendations. There were a variety of thoughts about the level of detail, the role of the BHD Director's assistant in compiling information, the timing of this data compilation (during the consideration of the Committee or review by the Executive Committee and CSB Board), and the timing of the Committee's budget review process. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.