

**Developmental Disability Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board
Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order and facilitated by CSB member and committee co-chair, Carol Skelly.

Public Comment Period:

There were no public comments.

Introductions –CSB Committee members: Barbara Jones, Carol Skelly, Cherie Takemoto, Moira Saucedo, Nancy Tishman, Casey Youman, Donna Budway, and Alex Soroko; Attendees: Donna Goldbranson, Scott Starkey, Michael Jackson, Mara Flynn, John Poutasse, Ann DiPlacido, Edward O’Brien, Peg O’Brien, Gwen McQueeney, and Lucia Claster; staff representatives of service providers: Jan Williams (ServiceSource), Theresa Piccolo (ServiceSource), Brenda Richardson (ServiceSource), Kris Hollins (Community Residences), Michael Bromlee (Linden Resources), April Pinch-Keeler (MVLE), and Grace Mitchell (Community Residences); Lucy Beadnell representing the Arc of Northern Virginia; and County staff members: La Voyce Reid (DHS/DDS Bureau).

Approval of Minutes – Review of the September 7, 2016 minutes was postponed to the November meeting.

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

- The Virginia Legislators are gearing up for January 2017 and are starting to generate ideas, including those that pertain to persons with developmental disabilities
- DBHDS Waiver redesign is underway and there are some initial concerns regarding service authorizations
- Weekly calls facilitated by the state (DBHDS) with stakeholders are occurring; anyone is welcome to call in. The calls are an opportunity to keep abreast of Waiver issues and changes.
- There is still no launch date for the State’s Individual Family Supports Program.
- Virginia has moved up in the ranks from 41st to 39th state when it comes to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. This is based on 2014.
- October 20, 2016 The Arc of Northern Virginia will host a group speaking to Fairfax residents about “Diversion First,” with emphasis on safety and police supports.

Therapeutic Recreation Office –No updates

Vocational Services Presentations:

A. SPARC Highlights (Presenter: Donna Goldbranson)

- SPARC is a non-Medicaid day support provider
- Program's philosophy is based on the idea of Medicaid dollars being used to customize supports tailored to the individual's needs
- SPARC Works can be currently subsidized (July 2016 – July 2018 contract) through Fairfax County, which enables SPARC to charge less for services. Another unique option is self-directed services funding through Fairfax County CSB.
- Offers a customized employment model based on a simulated "dog cookies" business
 - Clubhouse Model focuses on community service and independent living
- First year vocational training the focus is on soft skills and is designed for any learning level
- Second year focuses on hard skills: inventory, order fulfillment, marketing, and production
- Program Outcomes
 - Competitive Employment
 - Self-Employment
 - Own on-line business opportunities

The following questions stemmed from the presentation:

1. Does an individual need to come with their own PSA? This is a part of the assessment; 90% of the participants do come with a PSA.
2. What are the hours for the Clubhouse? 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays located in McLean and Tuesday and Thursday located in Reston. The vocational program operates from 10:00 to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
3. What is the cost? \$400.00 per month for vocational training; partial scholarships are available. The costs for the clubhouse model depends on level of need and ranges include \$240/month, \$360/month, and \$400/month
4. In terms of outcome– when people are trained how do you envision placements? SPARC envisions that all persons will achieve one of the three outcomes highlighted.
5. Is there a job placement component? The job placement component comes from the various partners to include MVLA and JSSA (Jewish Social Service Agency). SPARC does the job training and the partners focus on placement.
6. Are there opportunities for internships? There are no such opportunities designed into the current two-year contract.

Other information provided: In July Donna met with families with a focus to gauge interest of SPARC developing a Clubhouse program in Arlington.

B. Competitive Employment Perspective Scott Starkey

Mr. Starkey lives in a group home here in Arlington and works in recyclables at George Mason University. He shared that he enjoys walking across the campus and to and from the various buildings gathering recyclables. The work is performed in groups with an average of five people per group. There are 15 to 16 people that do the same work. He starts working at 8:30 am and finishes around noon. In addition to working at the main campus in Fairfax, Mr. Starkey can also work at the Arlington campus once a week and the Prince William campus once a week.

Questions included:

1. By whom are you employed? George Mason or someone else? And, for how long. Mr. Starkey has been employed by JDI for three years and has been assigned to GMU for this entire time.
2. Did they (JDI) train you. No, learned how to do the job by (on-the-job training).
3. What are the age ranges and genders? The ages range from 50 to 57l there is one female.
4. How do you get to work each day? Cabs or van

C. ServiceSource Oakton Café (Presenters– Jan Williams and Sabrina Castellanos)

Blossom Daily Café presentation highlights included:

- Blossom Daily Café (Oakton) opened in January 2015 as a Group Supported Employment (GSE) model
- The program supports seven individuals with one supervisor
- Not all individuals work full time hours as some are engaged in multiple activities

What's unique about the program: The enclave and day support services are co-located at the Oakton site, which has a retail component. The eventual goal is for the program to be "employee owned."

ArlingtonWeaves, Etc. presentation highlights included:

- Integrated Day Support model
- Five product lines that include:
 - Creative weaving
 - Aroma therapy (Soaps, candles)
 - Popcorn
 - Dog biscuits
 - Painting
- ServiceSource Foundation covers the cost of all materials and supplies. For weaving items, the individual receives 100% of the generated revenue.
- Beginning the week of October 9th participants will have the option to work off site to engage in aroma therapy (make scented candles and soap). Participants will be paid the Virginia minimum wage for time spent developing products.

Questions stemming from the presentation:

1. Is there any thought to opening a Blossom Daily Café here in Arlington? There has been no immediate discussion about opening a café in Arlington, but it's certainly an area to look at for future consideration.
2. What is the management oversight to ensure that income limitations are considered to minimize risk to an individual's benefits? The issue of income limitations is addressed at the point of intake for each participant. Further, there is in-house expertise to aid the process monitoring revenue from product sales to further minimize risk to benefits, including SSI.
3. Are weaving products to be sold at locations other than ArlingtonWeaves, Etc.? Yes, it is planned that items will be sold at Farmer's Markets, through e-commerce, and at the Court House Plaza store/library. Additionally, custom orders are accepted.

D. Wildflour and Cameron's Chocolates

A handout (attached) on the above programs was shared with meeting participants. Ann DiPlacido shared her daughter's experience with Wildflour highlighting that she has attended since September 2015. She enjoys the baking and spending time with friends who work at the same location. She enjoys the program and seems to be happy there.

General discussion in response to the Vocational Services Presentation:

- SPARC is not a Medicaid Waiver funded program, but does utilize Fairfax County's self-directed services funding.
- Arlington County funds vocational services for all graduates, as needed, but does not have separate funding reserved for non-Medicaid Waiver self-directed services.
- Cameron Chocolates is in the process of becoming a Medicaid Waiver provider

Staff Updates:

La Voyce shared the announcement of the ArlingtonWeaves, Etc. Open House scheduled for October 27th from 11:00 to 1:00 pm.

Vendor Reports

There were no vendor reports.

New Business –

Carol Skelly highlighted the following:

- The Arlington CSB will be meeting with legislators in November 2016 to begin discussion of budget priorities. This item will be on the November agenda.
- Related to the above, the Committee will need to discuss case management needs due to increased graduates
- There may be a need for metrics on caseload assignments to support budget priorities
- Guardianship – may need information from staff on gaps in this area
- Participants asked to come to the meeting with ideas about next year's proclamation ceremony; perhaps with an emphasis on employment, but on a smaller scale than prior years.

**The next regular DD Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm
2100 Washington Blvd., Conference Room B, Arlington, VA**