

## ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

### Mental Health Committee

1/25/17

Approved:2/22/17

**Committee Members Present:** Judy Deane (Co-chair), Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Debra Byrd, Dori Mitchell, John Mitchell, Betsy Greer, John Blount, Scott Brannon, Anne Hermann, Cathy Lewis, Dayna Belfiore

**Others:** Steve Gallagher, Caroline Bragdon

**Committee Members Absent:** Tom Quinn, Lee Long, Sue Lowry, Tamara Theiler, Sam Howlett, Leslie Gosling, Jarrod Nagurka, Brian Berke

**Staff Present:** Alan Orenstein, Chinomso Ememe

**Kensington Apartments Visit:** Hope Sivilai and Lila Corey, CR Program Managers, with the participation of an apartment resident, described the history, philosophy, and operations of the Kensington apartments. The program was established about 2 years ago with predominantly clients from another, standard group home. The program is characterized by its being composed of separate individual and 3 bedroom apartments for 8 individuals. The apartments are among those in an apartments building also occupied by non-program participants. Staffing is about 16 hours daily. Ms. Sivilai emphasized the skill training, and general emphasis on increasing independence for participants in the program. Three clients have moved on to independent living. The apartment resident noted the adjustments to living more independently, skills learned and learning to live with a co-resident. There were a number of questions from the Committee members about the number and type of apartments, client response to the supervision level, financing, etc. Ms. Sivilai showed the Committee several apartments. The Committee completed the visit at 4:45 pm.

**Business Meeting Call to Order:** Mr. Bert called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the 1/5/17 minutes without correction.

#### **Mental Health Director's Report:**

Dr. Orenstein asked members their reaction to the Kensington visit. Members found it generally quite positive. Dr. Orenstein provided an update of the proposal to expand the Kensington model by 4 individuals. In a nutshell, CR is editing their expansion proposal following questions about the first draft, and an updated proposal is expected this week. Ms. Deane noted that the "group homes" were moving more toward "supported apartments" with the expansion of Kensington-type apartments. Dr. Orenstein explained the complexity of state service taxonomy and state licensing regarding residential services, agreeing that the extended apartments were more clearly "supported apartments".

Dr. Orenstein noted that the Committee schedule was finalized by clarifying the date, time and location of the joint meeting with the SA Committee. He e-mailed the updated schedule to Committee members.

Dr. Orenstein provided a brief update on the Group Home RFP. Editing has begun to develop a current RFP allowing initiation of the RFP process. He received comments from the Group Home Committee regarding issues to address which will be incorporated into the final draft.

#### **Chairs' report:**

Ms. Deane provided an update regarding the Committee's FY18 budget asks, as follows:

- There was no DHS management support for adding staffing pending staff resource availability following reorganization planning
- The Committee will continue to advocate for 6 added MH beds , assuming approval of 4 beds this year from within the current budget
- DHS management will support a study of the need for autism spectrum disorder services, i.e., one-time funding for a consultant study and plan
- Discussion of a proposal by Ms. Deane to add a staff position to work with VHC with problematic Arlington clients

Ms. Deane updated members about negotiations and advocacy with the VHC for added psychiatric beds and the movement of the ward “above ground”. She also noted the upcoming advocacy process, which will include meetings with County Board members and other senior staff, participation in the COPN (Certificate of Public Need) hearing process, and CSB participation in the Site Planning Review Committee for the project. There followed a discussion of advocacy strategy.

Mr. Bert provided an update regarding Employment Committee activities. They accomplished several initial goals and, with Jose Campos, Job Avenue Employment Service program manager, developed a tentative list of other possible goals. These included an employers’ breakfast and developing connections with temp employment agencies.

Mr. Bert also described activities related to the issue of the police use of handcuffs when transporting people during a TDO. There will be a meeting with the police liaison and Ms. Weisman to discuss alternatives. Mr. Bert noted that two key issues in dealing with this problem are: 1) making a decision about who can be transported without restraints, and 2) alternate transportation is expensive. There are examples in other jurisdictions that might be considered. Ms. Lewis suggested a thank you note when police properly respond. Ms. Belfiori noted that there are regulations prescribing procedures during transport.

**Announcements:** Betsy Greer and Scot Brannon noted that the NAMI national conference will be held in Washington this summer.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.