

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Mental Health Committee

1/4/17

Approved: 1/25/17

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Brian Berke, Debra Byrd, Dori Mitchell, John Mitchell, Betsy Greer, Leslie Gosling, John Blount, Scott Brannon, Jarrod Nagurka

Committee Members Absent: Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Tom Quinn, Lee Long, Sue Lowry, Anne Hermann, Tamara Theiler, Cathy Lewis, Dayna Belfiore, Sam Howlett

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Leslie Weisman, Lizabeth Schuch, John Palmieri

Call to Order: Ms. Deane called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee approved the 11/30/16 minutes without correction.

Initiative Presentation:

Ms. Weisman and Ms. Schuch provided an overview of the Trauma Informed Care initiative. They described what it was, the connection with the National Council on Behavioral Health's training and support process, the staff training provided and how subgroups are organized to manage the implementation. Ms. Schuch summarized some of the philosophy behind trauma-informed care by noting that the question asked of consumers should not be "What is wrong with you?" but rather "what happened to you?" She also cited specific steps that had been taken at the request of the Consumer Advisory Council, to make the physical environment at the CSB more welcoming, including adding pictures, noise-proofing and cutting down on bright lights. The DHS Director expanded this initiative to include all of DHS. In particular, there were questions about and discussion of the stress of police handcuffing of detained or transported clients. Mr. Brannon expressed gratitude on the behalf of consumers for the work that is being done on this initiative.

Dr. Palmieri described the Zero Suicide initiative. He noted that it brought together the best practices in suicide prevention training, assessment, management and treatment. He outlined the training provided and planned and the subgroups organized to implement the procedural improvements. Asked about the number of suicides in Arlington, Dr. Orenstein indicated that there are 10-15 suicides in Arlington every year, but very few if any are CSB clients. Dr. Orenstein said there has not been a suicide among CSB mental health clients since March 2015. Ms. Deane asked whether the statistics on CSB suicides would include individuals who had formerly been clients but had been discharged from the rolls. Dr. Palmieri said that they would probably not be included unless they had been discharged very recently, but that an effort is made to check whether any of the Arlington individuals have had any contact with the CSB or Emergency Services. Ms. Deane asked about the role of families, and whether there is an effort to alert family members if an individual is judged to be a suicide risk, but is not in an acute crisis. There followed a discussion of the attempt to do so, within regulatory and ethical limits and HIPPA "gray areas".

Dr. Palmieri also presented the status of implementing the Daily Activities Assessment (DLA-20). He described the items included in this 20-item measure of client functioning; noted the major outcome measurement and level of care determination uses; and the training now being provided with as February target for full implementation. Ms. Mitchel asked about the relationship to the LOCUS and supportive studies. Action: Dr. Palmieri will find and distribute available DLA validity studies.

Dr. Orenstein provided a brief update of the Same Day Access consultation, and he described some of the options and implementation decisions that had to be made over the next 7 months. He also described the new staff supervision procedures that were recently started and the planned training in Collaborative Documentation.

Mental Health Director's Report:

Dr. Orenstein described the follow-up actions taken from the last meeting. These were: distribution of DLA website link; distribution of signs of suicide; information on MH First Aide use; VHC data for Ms. Deane and Hermann provided by Ms. Weisman; and responses to a poll of members re about statistical indicators of interest

Dr. Orenstein gave an update on the gathering of more detailed information regarding the additions of Kensington-style beds though an extension of the CR Group Home contract. The supported apartment "model" was briefly described. Dr. Orenstein is following up with some questions regarding the CR proposal.

Dr. Orenstein noted the need to adjust the Committee meeting schedule, to both avoid a conflict with the Board's Wednesday meetings and to finalize the joint meeting with the SA Committee. After speaking with the SA Committee staff liaison, he determined that one feasible option is to meet at their meeting 3/27. After some discussion of options, the Committee agreed to meet at that SA meeting time, preferably at 6 pm. Action: Dr. Orenstein will confirm the date and time with the SA Committee liaison, Suzanne Somerville; he will also update and distribute Committee schedule.

Chairs' report:

Ms. Deane noted that there will a meeting tomorrow with VHC. A report is being prepared for the meeting and for other advocacy opportunities. Also, with regard to the Committee's FY18 budget priorities, advocacy will continue at the Executive Committee. She noted that the MH and ID Committees developed proposals, but there were no proposals from the Child and Family and the SA Committees. Ms. Greer noted that the Arlington pre-session legislative hearings will be tomorrow, and that she will be testifying, as will Mr. Nagurka on MH issues and Carol Skelly on ID issues. Arlington's number one mental health ask at the State level is for additional public hospital beds.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.