

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

9/27/17

Approved 10/25/17

Committee Members Present: Wayne Bert (Co-chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Dori Mitchell, John Mitchell, Anne Hermann, Sam Howlett, Leslie Gosling, Cathy Lewis, Debra Byrd, John Blount, Scott Brannon, Steve Gallagher

Committee Members Absent, Lee Long, Tamara Theiler, Adi Radhakrishnan, Tom Quinn, Betsy Greer

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Deborah Warren, John Palmieri

Public Observer: David Fitzgerald

Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 6/28/19 minutes with corrections.

Mental Health Director's Report:

Dr. Orenstein distributed an updated organizational diagram describing the restructuring of the BHD. He noted that the programs overseen by the Committee will remain the same, although the Clarendon House Manager and the Residential Coordinator will report to the Chief of the Residential and Specialized Services Bureau. The SA outpatient team will report to the Outpatient Services Bureau Chief, along with the other programs previously in the MH Bureau.

Dr. Orenstein noted that the CSB committee orientation was held 9/5/17 with about 23 participants. The orientation was unique in that after overviewing the CSB, each Committee liaison described the purpose and functioning of their disability committee. Last year only the MH Committee was presented.

Dr. Orenstein reminded Committee members of the draft Committee schedule and the remaining unscheduled meeting in February and April. Upon discussion and a straw vote, the consensus was to schedule a meeting with Client Services Entry and a joint meeting with the SA Committee. Ms. Deane also suggested that Dr. Lillian Tidler, the new Medical Director, be invited and that the DD Bureau Chief be invited to the meeting in which Job Avenue will present, since the DD Bureau is interested in developing employment services. Actions: Dr. Orenstein will: (1) arrange meetings with CSE and the SA Committee for February and April; (2) invite Dr. Tidler to a meeting; and (3) inform the DD Bureau chief of and invite her to the Committee meeting with Job Avenue 1/3/18.

Chairs Report

Ms. Deane detailed the status of advocacy with the VHC regarding an increase in the number of psych beds, movement of the ward from the basement, and improvements in emergency services for mentally ill patients. There were meetings over the summer, and these negotiations are now included as part of site plan discussions. Generally, there has been notable progress and the development of a promising relationship. There is an ongoing attempt to estimate the number of beds needed for COPM approval. Also, Kaiser, a major hospital insurer, appears supportive of increased beds.

Ms. Dean and Ms. Hermann attended a meeting with the County Manager, as part of broader budget-related meeting. The County Manager asked about important services the attendees utilized and how service can be decreased or charges made. Ms. Warren noted that there is an upcoming budget roundtable 10/3 at the Sequoia 1 auditorium.

Budget Priority Discussion.

Dr. Palmieri provided comments regarding each of the Committee's budget proposals. Dr. Orenstein noted that the proposal for \$120,000 for Emergency Services security was no longer needed for FY 19, due to an alternate funding source that was obtained.

The members then proceeded to review and discuss each proposal. The proposals reviewed and Dr. Palmieri's comments are follows, in order of the original Committee priority:

1. \$120,000 funding to ensure 24-hour security presence at Crisis Intervention. This was withdrawn. Dr. Palmieri agreed the need for FY 19 was addressed, but he noted this was one-time funding.
2. 1.0 MH Therapist for the MH Community Support Teams. Dr. Palmieri indicated there was a need for this proposal, due to increasing caseload sizes. He noted the restructuring may provide some resource in the long run. Also, the SDA project aimed at increasing utilization, so he is considering a different way of dealing with "maintenance" clients. This is a priority.
3. 1.0 position for the Forensic Program jail diversion team to implement diversion activities at bond hearings. Dr. Palmieri indicated he was seeking an expanded justification from Ms. Weisman and Dr. Guerrero, to determine if additional staffing was needed.
4. 0.5 Psychiatric Nurse for SAMH (ADSD) to serve Mary Marshal clients. Dr. Palmieri indicated there was a need for nursing services for this aged population, but he would be considering assistance through existing BHD nurses. Therefore, this item was not a high budget priority.
5. 1 MH Therapist for the young adult MH services (First-STEP). Dr. Palmieri indicated there was a need for this proposal, due to increasing caseload sizes. This was a priority.
6. 2 MH Therapists for increased Office-based Crisis Stabilization He noted some need for coverage over weekends, since there was increasing volume now addressed with PRNs. He will be reviewing staff use and use of PRNs to determine the need for additional staffing.

Regarding funding to increase supported apartments by 6 beds and 1 FTE for the Clarendon House to provide weekly Saturday community socialization, Dr. Palmieri had no comment, due to low committee priority. Dr. Palmieri also noted (in a post meeting e-mail) that his own priorities included expanding the INSHAPE program which might be possible with internal resources, and expanding contract capacity or staffing to work with individuals with co-occurring developmental and mental health concerns.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.