

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

11/29/17

Approved: 1/3/18

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Dori Mitchell (Co-chair), John Mitchell, Anne Hermann, Sam Howlett, Leslie Gosling, John Blount, Scott Brannon, Wayne Bert, Betsy Greer, David Fitzgerald, Caroline Bragdon

Committee Members Absent: Lee Long, Adi Radhakrishnan, Tom Quinn, Cathy Lewis, Steve Gallagher, Debra Byrd, Tamara Theiler

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Mark Doering, Luis Marcano

Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 10/25/17 minutes without corrections.

PACT Team Presentation: Mr. Marcano and Mr. Doering described the purpose, structure and major services of the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) program. The Performance Management Plan had been distributed in preparation for the presentation. In particular, they described that the program targets the most seriously mentally ill clients that can be served as outpatients; the 11-member multidisciplinary team structure; the services provided (psychiatric, case management, nursing, dual diagnosis, and vocational); and the field-based services and 24/7 operation. In FY17, 106 people were served and the current census is 89. Mr. Doering described the screening and engagement process, highlighting the outreach and rapport development. He noted that PACT is the only program where staff can go out and do the intake wherever the client is, including out on the street. He recounted that he had spent over a year trying to develop rapport with a homeless client and convince her to accept services, and he was finally successful in doing the intake the previous week. Dr. Orenstein clarified the cost, the explicitness of eligibility criteria, and the research basis for the structure and operation of the program. Mr. Fitzgerald questioned the admission flow into PACT and why he was not informed by the hospital of CSB and PACT services for his son. Dr. Orenstein noted the special character of staff and effectiveness of leadership of a complicated team. Ms. Deane noted the support provided by PACT Advisory Group and Dr. Orenstein thanked the CSB for support in increasing staff grades and the impact on improving staff tenure.

Outpatient Services Director's Report: Dr. Orenstein provided an update on Same Day Access, noting that the use of new assessment forms had started 11/20/17 and on 11/27/17 the walk-in process was initiated. In response to questions from Ms. Greer, Dr. Orenstein noted that if clients don't show for the first appointment, Intake staff outreach to the client and that BHD is hiring an outreach specialist to perform this kind of follow-up.

Dr. Orenstein noted that next meeting is 1/3/18 instead of the regular monthly time in December, due to the holiday. A presentation by Job Avenue is scheduled. He also summarized the status of SA-MH integration in outpatient services and noted the messaging, transitioning,

assessing, planning and implementation activities. For example, outpatient services is now working on closing service gaps, planning a joint expansion of intensive group work, and more effectively initiating needed transfers between the MH and SA teams.

Mr. Howlett distributed umbrellas for to Committee members as gifts for clients.

Chairs' Report: Mr. Bert provided the following update:

- Regarding the “transport with dignity” initiative, the DBHDS completed a pilot, and a system using private security and the use of private cars for the transport were under consideration state-wide.
- Dr. Guerrero estimated that jail diversion saves 1.25 million over 2 years
- With respect to his report of last month, he clarified that police are considering suicide detection proneness tool for use by police

Ms. Deane reported the discussion of priorities with Ms. Warren and Dr. Palmieri. In response to questions from Ms. Greer, Ms. Deane reminded the Committee that several of the original priorities were addressed by Dr. Palmieri’s internal review of need and available resources. This resulted in priorities for a MH case manager and a young adult services case manager. Ms. Dean initiated a discussion of how to prioritize the two items. She suggested that there might be a more positive reception to the young adult item as opposed to “just another adult case manager”, particularly in light of questions about providing services to young adults with autism. Dr. Orenstein pointed out that currently, some young adults are being seen by other MH case managers because there are not sufficient young adult YA case managers. So adding another YA case manager would ease the load for the MH case managers in Team C as well. After some discussion, it was agreed that if the CSB had to prioritize the two requests, the YA case manager would be the first priority, and the MH case manager would be the second.

Ms. Deane related a situation in which ASPAN has refused to inform a mother of a young man’s status or residence at the shelter claiming confidentiality. Ms. Deane asked Dr. Orenstein to look into the regulatory basis for this, i.e., if it is driven by HIPPA requirements, to help her determine next steps in advocating. Action: Dr. Orenstein will look into the situation

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.