

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

1/24/18

Approved 2/18/18

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

Committee Members Absent: Lee Long, Adi Radhakrishnan, Tom Quinn, Cathy Lewis, Tamara Theiler, Anne Hermann, Sam Howlett, Caroline Bragdon, David Fitzgerald

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Susanne Somerville, Steven Singer

CSB Members Present: Adele McClure

Arlington Detention Facility (ADF) Tour: After screening by security, the tour, hosted by Ms. Somerville and Mr. Singer, started at 4:30 pm. The facility is the first urban high-rise jail run under direct supervision in Virginia. The inmate population averages about 500 with about 200 security staff. The population age range is from 18 to about 75. The CSB Jail Diversion/Forensic Case Management team works with approximately 200 of the 500 clients, providing assessments, case management, therapy, medication support and leading groups. The facility areas shown and described included: the booking area, the ACT program blocks, the mental health treatment blocks and the crisis cells. The tour also included seeing the support areas: the kitchen, laundry, medical clinic, and library. There were a number of Committee member questions asked and answered.

After the tour there were a number of follow-up questions regarding the jail and related legal and forensic issues. The questions asked and answers provided by Ms. Somerville and Mr. Singer included:

- Is there validity to the concerns expressed recently to the CSB by an Arlington resident whose friend was jailed for possession of a small amount of methamphetamine? Why was he not allowed to enroll in a drug treatment program in the community? (Answer: sentencing is a judicial decision, made by the Judge, not the CSB. Arlington does have a small drug court program, but participation comes only after sentencing and alternatives to incarceration are more limited than with MH disorders. On the mental health side, the CSB has long been cooperating with the police and there is considerable understanding among police and prison staff that people with SMI are not always responsible for their actions. But when it comes to substance abuse disorders, this view is not as widely shared.)
- How does the Arlington Detention Facility compare to the jails in other jurisdictions? (Answer: The ADF is commonly viewed as a relatively excellent, model jail with good collaboration with DHS services.)
- How is the current medical/psychiatric contractor working out? (Answer: The contract services have much improved, mainly due to a new prescribing physician who is more open to prescribing psychiatric medications.)

- Could medications be continued upon jail entry? (Answer: Medication can be taken into the jail if “verified”. The formulary has been expanded so other medications may be prescribed if justified.)
- Who goes to Western State and how long does it take to get them admitted? (Answer: Inmates go to Western state to “restore to competency” and in rare occasions if the court determines they cannot be managed at the ADF; wait time is now being monitored more closely by the State.)

Call to order: The Chair called the business part of the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 1/3/18 minutes without correction.

Outpatient Services Director’s Report: Dr. Orenstein noted that he had provided updated information regarding the 2 case manager position budget priorities, as requested by Ms. Deane. Also, he reminded members that the 2/28/18 Committee meeting will be a joint meeting with the SA Committee. He noted that in the past the main focus was on dual diagnoses and asked what they were interested in discussing. Ms. Deane replied that there was general interest in how “integration” is progressing and what its impact has been.

Chairs’ Report: Ms. Deane noted there was no Chair’s report.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.