

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Mental Health Committee

5/23/18

Approved 9/26/18

Committee Members Present: Judy Deane (Co-chair), Dori Mitchell (Co-chair), John Mitchell, Wayne Bert, David Fitzgerald, Sam Howlett, Steve Gallagher, Tameka parker

Committee Members Absent: Lee Long, Adi Radhakrishnan, Tom Quinn, Cathy Lewis, Tamara Theiler, Caroline Bragdon, Leslie Gosling, John Blount, Debra Byrd, Anne Hermann, Scott Brannon, Betsy Greer

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, Leslie Weisman, America Caro, Grace Guerrero

Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the 4/18/18 minutes without correction.

The Chair initiated a round of introductions from and to the new member, Tameka Parker, the new Sentencing Advocate from the Public Defender's Office

Homeless Outreach Presentation:

Ms. Weisman described the structural background of the program; America Caro is the team leader who reports to Dr. Guerrero. The team visits all shelters including ASPAN, Doorways, RPC, etc. and does street outreach. The annual homeless count recently found 37 homeless from Arlington as well as other itinerant persons from surrounding jurisdictions. Most are mentally ill, some seriously. They are homeless due to lifestyle choice, waiting for housing, or difficulty achieving landlord approvals due to a poor rental or criminal history. In response to questions, staff clarified that there are about 125 shelter beds; the number of homeless is falling, and if encountering a homeless person, it is best to provide available resources and not to give money. A major challenge to the outreach team is engaging the homeless person. When asked about needs by Chair, staff noted housing and outreach by primary health care and psychiatric providers

Budget Priority review:

Dr. Orenstein described the budget review procedure as a reminder. He distributed and briefly oriented the members to the Organizational Diagram and the Program Review Summary describing the MH programs under the purview of the Committee. He also distributed and reviewed the FY19 proposal status, describing the 7 proposals and those that were not resolved and resolved internally. He also noted that one proposal was incorporated in the FY 20 County budget, a 2-year term MH Therapist II position for the young adult services. He then distributed and summarized the FY20 proposals:

- 2 positions from Client Services Entry (1 MH Therapist II to assist in the diversion from in-patient services and 1 Human Services Specialist II to provide administrative support) and 1 MH Therapist II for the Forensic Team to allow diversion at the bond hearings; and
- 2 Peer Specialist positions for the Outpatient Services Bureau (PACT and the Community Support Team)

Ms. Deane suggested that the committee could determine priorities at the September meeting and that it was not necessary to meet in June.

Outpatient Services Director's Report:

- Dr. Orenstein questioned the schedule for next year, particularly September, since there would be no June meeting. Options were brainstormed, after Dr. Orenstein noted what programs had not been presented this year. The prospective ideas were: housing, emergency services, young adult services, psychiatric services. Other agenda items noted were: 50th CSB anniversary, and

the remaining Committee schedule. Also, the Committee needed to develop its FY20 budget priorities. It was suggested that Dr. Palmieri be invited to inform the Committee of what support the proposals would receive from the Department. Ms. Deane noted that Ms. Warren had suggested that the Committee pursue all its priorities, and not necessarily narrow them down as they did this year. Actions: 1) Dr. Orenstein will cancel the June meeting and will send a FY18-19 schedule template with preliminary meeting dates, 2) He will inform Dr. Palmieri of the preliminary budget proposals and invite him to the September meeting.

- Dr. Orenstein noted the follow-up to Mr. Fitzgerald's request for support to MOT code word changes. While DHS cannot write a letter of support, Ms. Friedman allowed that he could describe the Behavioral Healthcare Division's support and suggested the CSB Board could provide written support. Mr. FitzGerald noted that Ms. Hermann confirmed this.
- Dr. Orenstein questioned if September orientation was wanted. He offered to orient new (and other) members of the MH Committee and sought determination if the CSB Board wanted an orientation. Action: Ms. Deane will determine if the CSB Board wanted an orientation.

Chairs' Report:

- Ms. Deane described that VHC had agreed to an expansion of psychiatric and SA beds, from the current 18 to about 36. There will be further consideration of current and projected needs. This expansion will involve approval by the County Manager or designee. There has also been discussion of the ward design, also requiring County approval. VHC is also considering development of intensive outpatient services. Finally, Judy noted that there has been continued advocacy for the development of children's and autism services, but VHC has not been receptive.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6: 55 pm.