

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

October 8, 2013

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge, Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Dusty Sparrow, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo (on phone)

Apologies: Linda Staheli

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Shauna Alonge.
2. Thanks to previous chair/welcome to new chair: Betsy Greer opened the meeting by recognizing Naomi Verdugo for her contributions to the committee and to the CSB's services for children. Under Dr. Verdugo's tireless leadership, this committee has been able to instigate an "amazing turnaround" in children's services over the past few years. Dr. Verdugo's contributions have been invaluable and the committee looks forward to her ongoing participation in the committee. Committee members and staff echoed Ms. Greer's comments and shared their appreciation for Dr. Verdugo's advocacy and accomplishments. The committee welcomed Shauna Alonge as the new chair.
3. Minutes: minutes from the September meeting were approved.
4. Monthly statistics: Tom Wallace circulated the monthly statistics. Total numbers served were down from August to September, largely due to case reviews and closures related to staff departures. Emergency services numbers were up significantly as the new school year has started. Tom Wallace will provide numbers for the previous year to enable better comparisons from year to year. As of September, there were no families on the waiting list.
5. Staffing updates: Tom Wallace discussed personnel issues. Three vacancies are to be recruited, including a full-time intensive care coordinator position, and 1.5 FTE substance abuse prevention positions, which are grant-funded. Two recent vacancies are next in line for recruitment, and another resignation was submitted in October. It is hoped that all of these positions will be recruited soon. The committee discussed the time line for filling vacancies and some concerns were expressed that the vacant positions are bilingual positions. Regular updates will be provided to the committee. Betsy Greer discussed the position reclassification process that recently occurred for the PACT team (Behavioral Healthcare division); this process will move soon to CFSD positions. Tom Wallace will keep the committee informed. The committee wants to ensure that the staff are classified properly and paid appropriately for the services they provide.
6. Agenda planning: the larger CSB is requesting the agenda plan for the full fiscal year. The committee discussed meeting topics and selected dates for upcoming meetings. The calendar will be circulated with these minutes.

7. Action plan: The latest version of the action plan was circulated to the group. Discussion focused on how to update. The group agreed to move all completed items to the end of the document. One of the uncompleted items, strong collaboration with the schools, stimulated discussion about how best to address the issue. Members agreed that leadership on this issue needs to come from the highest level, such as the DHS Director and APS Superintendent. Tom Wallace will revise and circulate the action plan; the plan will be discussed at the next meeting, and reviewed regularly at subsequent meetings. Tom will also talk with Heather Stowe about division priorities/vision and share those with the committee.

8. Meeting time: The group agreed to meet on the second Tuesday at 5 for the time being.

9. New and old business:

- Regional mobile crisis/crisis stabilization programming: the RFP process continues, and it is hoped that services will start early in calendar year 2014.
- DHS-APS Mental Health Task Force: The task force met in late September and agreed to update the strategic plan that guided their work over the previous years. Next meeting is December 11 at 12:30 at the Education Center. Members of this committee are welcome to attend to help develop the strategic plan.
- A flyer describing services available through the Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau did not get into the APS "first-day packet" in September. Tom Wallace will reach out to the APS public affairs assistant superintendent to discuss circulation of the flyer after the staffing situation has improved.
- Tom Wallace will follow up with Kathleen Donovan, APS, regarding planning for the annual speaker/information fair in March.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Stambaugh Building, 2100 Washington Boulevard. Room to be announced.