

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

July 7, 2014

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge, Earl Conklin, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo

Staff: Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Shauna Alonge.
2. Minutes: The June minutes were finalized and will be sent to the larger CSB.
3. Monthly statistics: numbers for fiscal year 2014 were circulated and discussed. Total numbers served in June continued to be down significantly from a year ago. Demand for services is being met at present. The decrease in numbers served does not appear to be tied to the vacancies the bureau experienced in fiscal year 2014; numbers were declining before the vacancies occurred. Outreach was discussed, including a presentation to the Federation of Civic Associations in the fall. Committee member Linda Staheli has followed up with the chair of that group, with a possible presentation to occur in September. Another effort that will increase community awareness of services is the distribution of a one-page flyer about children's behavioral healthcare services to all Arlington Public Schools students in the first-day packet. The expectation is that referrals for services will increase when the document is distributed. Tom Wallace will also be coordinating with Brenda Wilks from Arlington Public Schools regarding attending principals' meetings and possible teacher meetings to continue providing information about children's services available through the CSB.
4. Program review table: The program review table was looked at in-depth, with Tom Wallace providing information about each of the program areas described in the document. Particular interest was paid to the work of the court liaison, which is projected to reach 260 young people in the new fiscal year, and the work of the detention-based therapist. Earl Conklin stressed how important these services are, and how helpful they have been to young people with mental illness who are involved with, or are at risk of becoming involved with, the juvenile-justice system.
5. Court liaison—involvement with criminal cases: Following up on a discussion that began at last month's meeting, the group discussed the connection, if any, between the CSB's court liaison and the public defender's office. Earl Conklin provided some background information on the role of the public defender, and differentiated the role of the court liaison, which meets with young people at intake, and aims to divert them from court involvement and connect them to community services, while the public defender works with cases that were not diverted. There may be a situation where the court liaison is involved with a non-diverted case; this does not happen frequently.

6. Old business:

- Tom Wallace provided an update on the crisis stabilization project. Final licensure from the state was obtained on June 12, and services began immediately. The rollout has started with the emergency services programs at each of the CSBs; staff from the vendor, NCG, is in the process of visiting emergency services and orienting staff to the program and how to initiate services. It is the responsibility of the vendor to implement an outreach and marketing plan. Tom Wallace is meeting with the vendor and a regional representative on July 11 to review the marketing plan and move it into high gear—reaching out to the justice system, schools, and the public. Monthly statistics about the service will be added to the report shared monthly with this committee. A monthly meeting of the regional representatives who collaborated on developing this program has been scheduled.
- Action plan: an updated behavioral healthcare action plan was circulated for review by committee members. The plan will continue to be reviewed at monthly meetings.
- Vacancies: Two mental health therapist positions have been filled, with staff on board and ready to take cases. In recruitment is a full-time, bilingual position that is partially funded through federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block-grant dollars. The previous recruitment did not yield suitable candidates; the new recruitment includes a trainee option, which allows flexibility to hire an individual who does not have the requisite two years of post-master's experience. The other vacancy, a 30-hour mental health therapist position, remains on the hiring slow-down list.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, September 8, at 4:00 p.m., in room 107 at the Drewry Building.