

## Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

May 12, 2014

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge, Janine Finnell, Betsy Greer, Marguerite Tomasek

Staff: Anita Friedman, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Shauna Alonge. The group welcomed Anita Friedman, Acting CSB Executive Director.
2. Monthly statistics: numbers for fiscal year 2014 through April were circulated and discussed. Total numbers served per month continue to be down from last year. Emergency services numbers declined from the high of the previous month (29) to 16. New cases continue to flow into the system and, thus far, a waiting list has been avoided. Discussion focused on case closings; the episodic-care model has been implemented and cases are appropriately closing after shorter treatment episodes. Further data can be mined from the electronic record, including number of clients completely closed to CSB programs, those who returned within a few months for additional services, and cumulative total numbers served through the year. As this data is developed, it will be shared with the committee.
3. DHS-APS collaboration update: Marguerite Tomasek and Tom Wallace attended the latest meeting of the DHS-APS Mental Health Task Force on May 7 and reported on the experience. This committee discussed ways to improve collaboration within the task force, by strengthening its plan and developing action items, and in other ways, such as with stronger collaboration with public health. Anita Friedman offered suggestions for reaching out to public health staff. Tom Wallace reported on a successful “meet and greet” between CSB Children’s Behavioral Healthcare Bureau staff and APS student-services staff (counselors, social workers, psychologists, etc.) on March 19, at which both groups learned about each other’s programs and broke into small groups to review case vignettes and learn about different viewpoints and approaches. About 80 staff from both departments attended. Feedback from the attendees was positive, and additional meetings will be scheduled.
4. Program review table: each June, the CSB’s committees revisit the program review table, which outlines programs within each committee’s purview, FTE information, budgeted amounts, clients served and outcome measures. Last year’s document was circulated and briefly reviewed. We will explore changing the “program cost” column title to “budget” for clarity. Tom Wallace will obtain updated staffing levels, service projections and budgets and will circulate the updated table before the next meeting of the committee.
5. Action plan: The committee reviewed the behavioral healthcare action plan. Several changes will be made to the plan, mainly around the timing of initiatives. The action plan served as a jumping-off point for discussions about collaboration, outreach to the community, evidence-based practices, legislative initiatives, and budget priorities for future years. Committee members engaged Anita Friedman in the discussions about the CSB, DHS, and the community at large. The action plan will be updated and circulated, and will remain on each month’s agenda.

6. New business: Betsy Greer reported that she had spoken with some guardians ad litem regarding their concerns about behavioral health issues with court-involved juveniles. The committee discussed challenges when attorneys get involved with clinical matters, and the confusion that exists among court-affiliated personnel regarding what is involved in a psychological evaluation (as opposed to a mental health assessment or a psychiatric evaluation). Tom Wallace is collaborating with the Deputy Director of the Court Services Unit at the juvenile court regarding improving understanding about these services. The new court psychologist, a former Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau staff member, will be involved in these efforts, along with CSB staff.

8. Old business:

- Tom Wallace provided an update on the crisis stabilization project. The contract with the selected vendor, National Counseling Group, has been signed and services are expected to begin by June 1. A rollout meeting with regional partners is scheduled for May 16. Information about the program's initiation will be shared with the committee.
- Hiring for vacant positions in the Children's Behavioral Healthcare Bureau has continued. One staff person has been hired and starts May 19. Negotiations are continuing with another potential hire, and interviews are ongoing for the remaining positions.
- Budget planning: the committee is in agreement about developing budget priorities for fiscal year 2016. All agreed to give some thought to potential items to prioritize.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, June 9, at 4:00 p.m.; location to be determined.