

**Developmental Disability Committee of the Arlington County Community Services Board  
Meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

DHS Sequoia Building I, 2100 Washington Boulevard, Room B, Arlington VA 22204

The meeting was called to order and facilitated by CSB member and committee Chair, Carol Skelly.

**Public Comment Period:**

There were no public comments.

**Introductions** –CSB Committee members: Barbara Jones, Carol Skelly, Cherie Takemoto, Ann Kelly, Nancy Tishman, Judy Hughes, Donna Budway, Alex Soroko, Atima Omara; Attendees: Lucia Claster, Ed O’Brien, and Ginny Conroy; staff representatives of service providers: Brenda Richardson (ServiceSource), LaTonia Adams (MVLE), and Bethany Barr (Linden Resources); Lucy Beadnell representing the Arc of Northern Virginia; and County staff members: April Rosenthal (Therapeutic Parks and Recreation) and La Voyce Reid (DHS/DDS Bureau).

**Approval of Minutes** – Review of the September 7, 2016 and October 4, 2016 minutes. The September minutes were approved with no changes. The October minutes were deferred to the December meeting in order to allow an opportunity for Donna Goldbranson to review and comment on the SPARC notes. The September notes will be sent electronically with attachments for the same meeting (previously provided at the October meeting).

**The Arc of Northern Virginia** – Ms. Lucy Beadnell distributed and reviewed her hand-out entitled, “The Arc of Northern Virginia’s November 2016 Legislative Update” (Attached). The following were included in the highlights:

- The Arc of NOVA recently met with Delegate Levine during which time they discussed matters of importance to persons with developmental disabilities.
- Waiver implementation is underway and has included unintended glitches with service authorizations and problems with WaMS (the Department’s Waiver Management System).
- Weekly calls with DBHDS focusing on Waiver implementation have continued. The targeted audience for the calls includes a range of stakeholders including CSB staff, as well as families and private providers.
- The Department has released procedures for slot transfers and emergency slots; applications are being received on a “first come first serve” basis.
- The DBHDS Individual Family Supports Program has released its launch date, which is November 15<sup>th</sup>. The grant amount dropped from \$3,000 per applicant to \$1,000. The application has been simplified. (Note: Lucy reported receiving the launch date after she prepared and printed the above referenced attachment and so this information is not included (in the attachment).

Refer to the above handout for full details.

**Therapeutic Recreation Office** – Updates were provided by April Rosenthal with the Therapeutic Recreation Office of Parks and Recreation. Highlights from her presentation included the following:

- Therapeutic Recreation launched its Facebook; DD Committee members are encouraged to “Friend” the Arlington County Therapeutic Recreation on Facebook.
- Registration opening soon for adapted classes. Winter catalogues will be mailed soon; registration opens December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Adapted Aquatics are being expanded to bring back yoga.
- Social Club continues to operate and serves adults (ages 30 plus); Young Adults (ages 18-29) and Teens (12 -17)

For more information refer to the attached Therapeutic Recreation handouts.

### **Preliminary County Budget Priorities for FY2018**

**Support Coordination FTEs:** DHS is requesting an additional 2.2 FTEs to support the expanded workload anticipated as a result of DD Waiver redesign. Carol expressed support of this budget priority.

**Pilot Arlington-based employment initiative:** Carol shared that she represented the DD Committee at a recent CSB weekend retreat that was attended by County Board Member, Christian Dorsey. This launched the opening of conversations to come in gearing up for the FY2018 budget process. Carol also distributed a handout entitled, “Arlington CSB Consumers with DD” to guide discussion on the Committee’s budget priorities namely where employment is concerned. The handout details the number of persons supported by the DDS Bureau that are served in Day Support, Group Supported Employment, and Individual Supported Employment. The following are highlights from the presentation and related discussion:

- Most people we are serving are in day support/habilitation programs.
- The next highest is Group Supported employment (GSE) followed by Individual Supported Employment (ISE).
- Nearly half of the people who have {Person Centered Plans (PCPs) are not interested in Supported Employment.
- It is “guestimated” that there are 20 to 40 people receiving day support services want to work.
- The handout highlights the number of individuals served in Arlington vs. outside of Arlington

A discussion on a new Arlington-based employment initiative followed presentation of the handout. Carol shared a brief narrative prepared by Chuck Adkins describing the operation of Wildflour as an “example” of an initiative that could be launched here in Arlington. Carol stressed that the handout is shared as an “example,” but could be further explored if there is high interest amongst the committee. Discussion of this as an option included the high costs associated with operating a restaurant in Arlington County and thus it may be beneficial to explore a range of services and options for such a new initiative. Examples discussed included expanding the PEP program (operated by the Career Center) beyond the current targeted population of ages 18 – 22 and perhaps modeling such after the ArlingtonWeaves, Etc. [Note: PEP – Program for Employment Preparedness]

A suggestion was proposed to explore space at the Arlington Mill Community Center (1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floors).

Other key discussion pertaining to a new employment initiative included:

- Concept seems viable, but will only move forward if we have the data to support the need (e.g., people in day support that want to move into employment)
- A “step up” concept is good, but people tend to move into such programs and remain. The model would need to encourage movement.
- The plans for a new initiative would have to include clear objectives, have clear outcome measures, and have a strong business model. It was suggested that perhaps ServiceSource, which currently operates ArlingtonWeaves, Etc., could share with the Committee some “business basics.”
- It will be important to consider operation costs if contracting with a provider; need to consider that an RFP may need to be developed including a Scope of Work.

Committee members were encouraged by Carol to bring to the December meeting ½ page program models for further discussion on this topic.

The private providers offering habilitation or employment services and in attendance were provided an opportunity highlight its day support or employment services or initiatives as it pertained to the above discussion:

Linden Resources shared that it has increased its focus on career readiness and transition to GSE. In the past year they have opened or expanded two day support models: (1) Career Readiness and Transition and (2) Day Support (Traditional).

ServiceSource moved from sheltered employment to Supported employment. They are always exploring new and innovative ideas.

MVLE continues its efforts to move from GSE to ISE. They are pushing towards more training and community inclusion in its service delivery.

Guardianship Gaps: La Voyce highlighted a gap in meeting the needs of a small number of individuals served by the Bureau that need guardians, but lack the funding to pursue guardianship. Specifically, it was not that most individuals served either have a guardian or do not require a guardian. There are approximately 20 individuals with a parent or other family member that are in process to become the legal guardian and who have the financial resources to do so. There are another 11 individuals (currently) that have parents or other family members that have expressed an interest in becoming the legal guardian, but lack the financial resources. At issue is that County dollars cannot be used to fund the costs of private attorneys and thus Bureau has not been able to support this need and therein fill this gap. It was suggested that the DD Committee recommended to the “Full” CSB that County funds be used for guardianship, though noted that the restriction on the use of funds may be one of “procedure.”

### **March 2017 Proclamation Ceremony and Venue**

The prior plan to highlight ArlingtonWeaves, Etc. was discussed, but ruled against given the program’s recent “Open House,” which was widely attended and included Board participation and the County Manager in attendance. The Committee agreed to highlight the PEP program for the 2017 Proclamation ceremony, but on a smaller scale than previous years (space at the Career Center will not accommodate a

large crowd and high demand for parking). Awards will be geared towards students and PEP founders. It was also suggested that business that use PEP be recognized.

#### **Staff Updates:**

La Voyce shared the following:

- The ArlingtonWeaves, Etc. Open House, which took place on October 27<sup>th</sup> was a success and well attended.
- Recently received the Waiver slot allocation (6) from DBHDS for the Community Living Waiver slots; anticipates hearing about the number of Family and Individual Supports Waiver in the near future.

#### **Vendor Reports**

There were no vendor reports or updates.

#### **New Business –**

Carol Skelly highlighted the following:

- On November 14<sup>th</sup> the CSB will be giving a briefing to state legislators. This is open to the public and will include participation from Arlington Legislative Delegates, as well as State Senators.

Carol asked that if anyone hears of particular issues surrounding Waiver implementation to let her know.

**The next regular DD Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm  
2100 Washington Blvd., Conference Room B, Arlington, VA**