

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Mental Health Committee

January 29, 2013

APPROVED

Committee Members Present: Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Debra Byrd, Tom Quinn, Betsy Greer, Scott Brannon

Committee Members Absent: Sam Howlett, Caroline Bragdon, Susan Lowry, Richard Smith, Brian Berke, John Blount, Lee Long, Ann Wroth

Staff Present: Suzanne Somerville

Others Present: Eileen Corbet

Presentation. Beginning at 5 pm, the formal meeting was preceded by a presentation about and tour of the Jail MH Program by Suzanne Somerville, Jail MH Program Manager. Ms. Somerville described that the Arlington County Detention Facility operates MH beds for males (21), females (8) and crises (3). The 5 MH staff perform assessments, provide groups and counseling services, respond to MH crises, coordinate services with the psychiatric staff, and assist in discharge planning (including those who are not Arlingtonians). Last year, 814 unduplicated people were seen by the MH staff. Ms. Somerville also reviewed statistics describing the clients' residence (465 are from Arlington), diagnoses (65% were seriously mentally ill,) charges (51% were felonies) and demographics (77% were male). The tour included the male and female MH unit and medical clinic area. Committee members raised concerns that about the inability of clients to continue the use of medications while in jail unless it was in the jail formulary.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Arlington Detention Center.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the December 4 minutes with amendments.

MH Director's Report: Dr. Orenstein noted the following: that the Committee schedule was finalized with the scheduling of a presentation by the Medical Director at the April meeting; Interagency Agreements are being updated for Committee review at the March meeting; and due to the receipt of higher than projected County real estate taxes, there would be no budget reductions in FY15.

Dr. Orenstein then detailed the expected loss of Medicaid revenue, due to a proposed rate change for Mental Health Skill-building Services (formerly MH Support Services) effective 7/1/14. MHSS are provided by contract and Medicaid reimbursements compose a significant source of revenue. He noted that one DMAS proposal involved changing the rate from \$91 for 1-3 hours to \$51 for 1 –2 hours. Since most of the 80 clients were served 1-2 hours weekly, our MHSS vendor estimates a loss in Medicaid revenue of about 43%. Since Medicaid is about half the revenue needed to serve 80 clients, it is further estimated that this rate change could result in a 25% service reduction. In addition to the proposed rate change, there has already been a change in eligibility criteria effective 12/1/13 authorized by emergency legislation. Dr. Orenstein also noted that there is a possibility that the State DAP funding, comprising about 25% of the MHSS vendor cost, might have to be used differently and could further reduce contracted MHSSs. The discussion that followed included questions about this being a regulatory versus a budget issue, the impact of budget

priorities aimed at the Training Centers, what the legislative advocacy message would be, and concern also for the prospect of losing DAP funding. ACTION: Dr. Orenstein will obtain information clarifying CSB advocacy regarding the MHSS criteria and rate change.

Chairs' Report: Ms. Hermann noted that there was not sufficient time to discuss the status of FY15 priorities, so that it was postponed. Ms. Greer asked that the latest priorities draft be distributed to the Committee. Ms. Deane asked that Dr. Orenstein schedule the quarterly Young Adult Parent meeting, to include Permanent Supported Housing and EDGE staff. Ms. Deane noted that PG County operates a MH Court. Mr. Quinn noted that a MH Criminal Justice Review Committee subcommittee is being formed to look into a MH court in Arlington.

ACTIONS: Dr. Orenstein will: 1) distribute the latest FY15 priorities draft to the Committee; 2) and schedule the quarterly meeting with the YA Parents.

Announcements: Ms. Byrd noted that an appreciation luncheon for the PACT staff is being planned by the PACT Advisory Group.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm