

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Mental Health Committee
September 25, 2013

Committee Members Present: Anne Hermann (Co-Chair), Judy Deane (Co-chair), Tom Quinn, Richard Smith, Brian Berke, Caroline Bragdon, Scott Brannon, John Blount, Susan Lowry, Debra Byrd

Committee Members Absent: Sam Howlett, Betsy Greer, Ann Wroth, Lee Long

Staff Present: Alan Orenstein, PhD, Sarah Thompson, Alice Straker, Sarah Shrum, Brent Bailey

Public Observer: Eileen Corbet

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Deane requested member introductions, since there were new Committee members attending.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the April minutes pending corrections from members by e-mail (Action: Dr. Orenstein will distribute the minutes to all members for corrections within one week)

Presentations: Ms. Shrum, MH Bureau Residential Coordinator, provided a general overview of the continuum of residential services and introduced the other presenters.

Alice Straker, Community Residences Clinical Director, described the contracted residential services provided by CR to adult MH clients. These are: 2 ALFs and 2 group homes totaling 29 beds; two transitional homes for the homeless each with 4 beds; the Ivy/Buchanan townhomes providing semi-independent living for 6 young adults; and 1 FTE support services worker embedded in the Team A transitional age program.

Brent Bailey, Regional Manager of Fellowship Health Resources, Inc., described the contracted services of his agency. These are: the Intensive Community Residential Treatment (ICRT) program in two houses totaling 8 beds; the two-week ACCESS crisis stabilization residence which serves as a diversion from psychiatric hospitalization now with 6 beds; and Intensive Supported Living Services (ISLS) providing mental health support services to approximately 70 MH Bureau clients.

Sarah Thompson described the DHS Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) Program which provides housing subsidies and supports to low-income adults with disabilities to live in their own permanent, affordable apartments. Basically, the PSH program arranges for available housing with landlords and provides a rental subsidy, in partnership with the MH Bureau which provides the MH supports. Currently, 156 MH Bureau clients are participants in the PSH program.

During the presentation, Committee members asked a number of questions to clarify and contrast the services, such as the difference among Housing Grants, Section 8 and PSH.

MH Director's Report: Dr. Orenstein noted the status of the Committee schedule for this year. There were two meetings (12/4/13 and 1/22/14) in which a presentation or visit still needed to be scheduled. The Chairs suggested that ideas from the Committee members be solicited by e-mail. Action: Dr. Orenstein will solicit by e-mail ideas from Committee members regarding topics for the 12/4 and 1/22 meetings.

Dr. Orenstein noted that the hiring "slowdown" is continuing. Therefore, the two positions added this year as a result of MH Committee advocacy (1 FTE non-SMI Therapist, .5 Young Adult case manager) have not yet been recruited.

Chairs' Report: Ms. Hermann initiated an overview of the current draft FY15 MH Committee budget priorities, which are being discussed by the CSB Board and Executive Committee. Dr. Orenstein reviewed each item providing information about the rationale for their inclusion. There was a question about the justification for and use of the additional 1 FTE MH Therapist for the Crisis Intervention Center. Ms. Hermann requested that the draft priorities be distributed to the Committee members for information and comment. Action: Dr. Orenstein will: (1) distribute to Committee members by e-mail the latest MH Committee FY15 budget priorities draft for comment, and (2) request further information from Ms. Weisman to justify the additional Crisis Center staff.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

Approved 10/23 13