

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 22, 2016

Members Present: Jim Mack, Shawn Buckner, Shauna Alonge, Wes Sanchez, Len Fischer, Craig Dabney, Chris Bennett, Tom Walker

Members Absent: Patti Aaron, Keith Whyte, Charlie Baughman, Jenette O'Keefe, Lonnie Ford

BHD Staff: Joe Bullock, John Palmieri

I. MEDICATED ASSISTED THERAPY- DR.N PROGRAM OVERVIEW- Dr. Bullock introduced Dr. John Palmieri, CSB Medical Director, who presented information on the development of a new pilot medication assisted therapy program. Dr. Palmieri provided a very detailed overview of the typical non-controlled medications used in outpatient medicated assisted therapy programs. Some of these include medications such as Naltrexone, Suboxone and Vivitrol. Dr. Palmieri stated that this class of medications have a chemical action that lessens the potential for abuse by blocking the key receptor site in the brain accessed by opiate drugs as well as alcohol that create the euphoria users experience.

Dr. Palmieri also shared that outpatient MAT program will use the integrated treatment model of staffing which typically includes a screening completed by the nurse; a thorough examination by the psychiatrist; individual/group counseling and patient education services provided by the therapist; and peer support services provided by the recovery coach. Early intervention services for HIV, HEP C and other communicable diseases are also monitored in the program through presentations and discussions in education classes or treatment groups.

Dr. Palmieri provided data showing the typical cost of MAT program medications and stated that the team is hopeful to launch the pilot in April 2016. Dr. Bullock added that the pilot will begin with a target of 10 consumers with up to four slots set-aside for the very expensive Vivitrol treatment option. Dr. Bullock stated that the Vivitrol treatment option costs upwards of \$1500.00 per month and is the only medication not covered by the prescription assistance program. The pilot would subsidize this cost for candidates identified as "ideal "for this treatment option.

II. SA COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT- Mr. Mack summarized with the committee the CSB Budget Priorities for FY 17. Mr. Mack as well as Ms. Shauna Alonge informed the committee that the budget proposal will include a request for three permanent full time equivalents (FTE's) peer recovery coach positions for adult mental health, substance abuse and emergency services programs. Additionally, there will be one peer position targeted for young adults included in the budget requests. Mr. Mack stated that the CSB will ideally be in a much better position to complete its work of advocating the key priorities during individual meetings with county board members in early March 2016. The CSB is also looking for advocates to participate in the public budget hearing scheduled for March 29, 2016. There were a couple of committee members who volunteered to either participate or seek out individuals who could advocate for this year's priorities from a lived experience perspective. Committee members were asked to supply any names to Mr. Mack by March 11, 2016. Mr. Mack reminded the committee that the Arlington County manager typically submits a final FY 17 budget to the county board the third week in April 2016.

Mr. Mack also announced that the tour for the ASPAN shelter that was cancelled in January can be rescheduled if the committee is interested. The committee suggested that the site visit be rescheduled for March 21st at 5:30 pm. Dr. Bullock stated that he will work with the ASPAN staff to reschedule the site visit and email confirmation to all committee members.

III. DIRECTOR REPORT: Dr. Bullock informed the committee about a newly established state-wide program call Project Revive. This project is designed to train laypersons to administer NARCON in the event of an opiate overdose. The program has expanded into the Norther Virginia CSB's and Dr. Bullock is planning to have at least two of his staff trained in the next few weeks to provide this very important education for interested Arlington citizens. Dr. Bullock also announced that the Drug Court Program will be making a budget request for continued support of funding provided by the county last fiscal year. The committee has historically also supported drug court initiatives during the budget process. Mr. Mack clarified areas the drug court will focus on as part of their priorities for FY 17.

NOTE: The next SA Committee meeting will be held on April 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Please note that the committee will also visit the ASPAN Shelter on March 21st beginning at 5:30 pm.