

## Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

December 12, 2011

Committee Present: Shauna Alonge (on phone), Janine Finnell, Barry Gale, Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli, Marguerite Tomasek, Naomi Verdugo

Staff: Joan Planell, Heather Carter-Stowe, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Naomi Verdugo. Linda Staheli was welcomed to the Committee.
2. Review of November 11 minutes: No revisions were made and the minutes were approved.
3. Focus on services: Heather Carter-Stowe provided an overview of the new approach to children's mental health and substance abuse services. There are four units providing direct services to the community:
  - The Front Door, which is designed to provide multiple points of entry throughout the community, not just through the intake desk. The unit will undertake significant outreach efforts to the community, including the schools and court systems, as well as PTAs, community associations, etc. The unit will bolster its resource database for families seeking information on private providers and services available in the community. The intensive care coordination and youth transition case management programs are also in this unit.
  - Care Coordination, which contains the case management staff who will work with families and therapists to ensure that families receive an effective package of services, both within the agency and in the larger community.
  - Outpatient Services, which includes licensed therapists who will be providing direct, evidence-based services to clients and families.
  - Assessment Services, which includes psychologists who do testing and evaluation, and the court liaison staff person.

Several clarifying questions regarding outreach plans, accessing CAT services, and use of resources were asked and answered. This discussion about services will be continued at the January meeting.

#### 4. New and Old Business:

- Naomi Verdugo reported on her visit with the County Board, at which she thanked them for their support for children's mental health services. The CSB will also be sending a letter to the Board giving their thanks.
- Joan Planell reported that the half-time Associate Medical Director (lead child and adolescent psychiatrist) position is in recruitment. Ms. Planell thanked the CSB for

prioritizing funds for another 0.5 FTE psychiatrist in its FY 12 county board budget request.

- Betsy Greer circulated an alert about advocacy efforts for 2012, including a January 4 pre-session hearing to be conducted by Arlington's delegation to the General Assembly, at which community members are encouraged to speak briefly. The House Appropriations and Senate Financing Committees are holding a similar hearing on January 6. Ms. Greer is also planning to meet with the six candidates for the soon-to-be-vacated County Board seat to learn about their stands on mental health issues. She is inviting other interested persons to join her.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, January 9, at 4:00 p.m., in room 423 at 2100 Washington Blvd.

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**Action Items:**

- Heather Carter-Stowe to circulate the original report from Mary Thornton Associates as well as the latest updates on in-process status items in the Action Plan.
- Heather Carter-Stowe to order additional copies of SAMHSA's book on mental-health issues for high-school age youth.