

Arlington Community Services Board – Children and Youth Committee

May 7, 2012

Committee Present: Janine Finnell, Barry Gale, Betsy Greer, Linda Staheli, Naomi Verdugo

Guest: Wendy Carria, Arlington Public Schools

Staff: Heather Stowe, Tom Wallace (minutes)

1. Call to order: meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Barry Gale.

2. School staff perspective on mental health issues among students: Wendy Carria, Pupil Services Specialist and 504 Coordinator with Arlington Public Schools, discussed how mental health services are organized in the schools. There is a counselor at each of the schools; their role varies by grade level, and can include problem-solving, mediation, risk assessment and career planning. Psychologists and social workers have a higher student-to-staff ratio than counselors, with one for every 1,600 students. This translates into a full-time psychologist and social worker at each of the high schools, but part-time status for those positions at the other schools.

Ms. Carria outlined the level of mental health education provided to students, which includes education about anxiety and depression in health classes, and the implementation of NAMI's Breaking the Silence curriculum for fifth-graders. She also discussed the Mental Health Cadre, which consists of volunteer teachers who have been trained on mental health issues and serve as a resource for staff and students. Cadre members are in place in the middle and high schools; the program will continue to expand.

Further discussion focused on transition services, the use of the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, suspensions and dropouts. The committee requested the latest data on suspensions and expulsions. Tom Wallace will pursue getting this data from school staff.

3. Review of April 9 minutes: Minutes were approved.

4. Action Plan update: Target dates have been adjusted. The latest version will be circulated via e-mail to the committee.

5. Monthly statistics: April numbers were circulated and briefly discussed.

6. Preliminary program planning and budget discussion: In an effort to get an early start on the budget planning process for FY 2014, last year's program review table was circulated and discussed. There have been some significant changes in the structure of children's behavioral healthcare services over the past year, and the document will be updated to reflect those changes. When complete, it will be circulated to the committee in preparation for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Agenda planning: the most recent draft of the agenda planning calendar was circulated and reviewed. Discussed a joint meeting with the Mental Health Committee, possibly for June (this was confirmed after the meeting). This document will be regularly updated.

8. New and old business: Betsy Greer discussed the 0.5 FTE, not requested by the CSB, that the County Board funded for a mental-health therapist at Carlin Springs Elementary School. Heather Stowe discussed the influence of the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families on getting this position, and the possibility of getting them more involved in this committee's work and priorities. Heather Stowe will reach out to the chair of the Partnership to link her to this committee's work.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, June 11, at 4:00 p.m., with a joint meeting with the Mental Health Committee to begin at 5:00, in lower level room B at 2100 Washington Blvd.

Action Items:

- Committee to periodically review the focus on services, as discussed at the last two meetings. *Ongoing*
- Action Plan to be circulated. *To be sent via e-mail with minutes.*
- Agenda-planning calendar to be updated and circulated. *To be sent via e-mail with minutes.*
- Committee members have requested a list of services provided by agencies who responded to the RFQ. *In process.*