

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Developmental Disability Committee
Monthly Meeting

Date/Time: February 13, 2024

Location: Hybrid: Microsoft Teams and 2100 Washington Blvd, Conference Room A, Arlington VA 22204

Members Present: Cherie Takemoto, Co-Chair, Bertra McGann, Co-Chair, Joe Albert, Donna Budway, Lynn Kozma, Mara Flynn, Favio Garcia, and Huong Pham

Members present virtually: Barbara Jones

Others in Attendance: Attendees: Alex Soroko, Lucia Claster, John Poutasse (in-person attendance), Carol Skelly, Josue Amaya (Our Stomping Ground), Elenor Hodges, Santigie Kargbo, and Joe Klem; The Arc of Northern Virginia: Diane Monnig and Lucy Beadnell; Providers: Michelle Lotrecchiano (MVLE), Joanne Orchant Aceto (MVLE), Kaleigha Gray (ServiceSource), Andrea Blackman (ServiceSource); and DHS Staff: La Voyce Reid (in person attendance) and Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield.

Recorder: Bertra McGann

Public Comments:

A parent expressed concern that process of getting approval to become as resident at Irving Street group home is not transparent. The parent reported that she was first approached by the Support Coordinator several months ago about consideration for her son being a resident in the group home, but she and her husband declined at that time. More recently, the parent had an opportunity to reconsider and tour, but she says the staff were vague in its response about whether he would or could still be considered. The parent also expressed that she wants her son to continue to participate in community activities, with more of a hybrid model. The parent asked whether long-time caregiver (they are using now) could continue to support her son in the event he moved into a group home. The parent commented that current group home models seem to be outdated in not allowing such an arrangement.

Alex Soroko informed DD Committee Members that Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation Manager, is transitioning away from Diamond and into a new position outside of Virginia. He asked Committee members to send a note of appreciation to Tom Furlough.

Minutes: The January 2024 minutes were approved with no changes.

The ARC of Northern Virginia Legislative Updates:

L. Beadnell presented The Arc's legislative updates (see attached) with the following highlights:

- Today was "Crossover Day" when bills must move to the other House.
- Medicaid funding and rate increases for service providers, virtual meeting attendance, and SSDI penalty bill passed the House and a different version passed the Senate.
- The General Assembly ends Mar 9.
- Senator Favola's bill on Transition Services passed the Senate but did not have a House sponsor.
- The Arc's Spanish language caseworker is making strides with outreach. Attendees were asked to spread the work to Spanish-speaking families and caregivers.

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The DD Committee Co-Chairs encouraged attendees to ask their legislators to support the DD funding proposals before General Assembly.

Co-Chairs Report:

- Transition Working Group – Co-Chair, B. McGann, reported that the small group includes DD Committee member, J. Albert, and L. Toepel. B. McGann walked the attendees through the draft “cheat sheet” and encouraged input before it gets shared with counterparts at Arlington Public Schools (APS).
- Our Stomping Grounds (OSG) Proposal – DD Committee member, D. Budway, summarized the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administrations’ (HRSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to improve transition services for young adults with Autism. The target age is 13-26 years. Our Stomping Ground will include the draft cheat sheet developed by the above-mentioned Transition Working Group. The proposal is due Mar 11. D. Budway requested data showing the five-year projection of students aging out of APS. L. Reid agreed to provide this data to D. Budway by the close of the week. A motion was approved by the voting members of the DD Committee to provide a letter of support to OSG for this NOFO. Co-Chair B. McGann will prepare and submit the letter.
- Co-Chairs welcomed new members: Mara Flynn, Favio Garcia, and Huong Pham
- Meaningful Day/Meaningful Life Listen and Learn - the March meeting will be virtual.

AGENDA ITEMS

County Budget Discussion –

DD Committee “Asks” include: (1) Fund two Support Coordinator FTEs/positions to aid in accommodating expected growth resulting from upcoming priority one waiver in FY2025 and FY2026. L. Reid noted that current data supports an average caseload of 37. Two Support Coordinator positions were funded in FY2018 and a third in FY2021. A Motion was approved by the voting DD Committee members to support (2) 2 FTEs. Former DD Committee Chair, C. Skelly, offered to provide guidance to the current Co-Chairs on operationalizing this request.

(2) Advise County of DD Committee interest in two planned sites for expanded day program with locations offering enhanced opportunities for community integration to planned expansion

Question: Who is referred to the Employment Access program

Answer: Coordinators refer individuals expressing an interest in the program and that have an interest in employment to ServiceSource for the new Employment Access program. ServiceSource conducts a tour of the EAP, as well as an assessment to determine if the individual’s needs can be supported by the program and provider. Exclusionary criteria may include aggressive behaviors or certain medical conditions for which the staff cannot support in this program. The program’s ratio is 1:5 (one staff to five participants). Supporting individuals requiring 1:1 support would be a challenge given strong emphasis on services provided in the community. It was communicated that while this would be a challenge for the program, it would not be impossible.

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Staff Updates:

L. B. Reid, Bureau Director, Clinical and Development Services, announced the upcoming Developmental Services' Employment Summit scheduled for May 29th. Further details will be provided in the months ahead. L. Reid noted that the planning committee for this event includes representation from the DD Committee (i.e., Co-Chair, C. Takemoto), individuals supported by DS, families, and Support Coordinators.

L. Reid also shared that for DD Awareness Month Developmental Services will be showing the documentary film, "I am Able," on Mar 21st from 6:00 – 8:00PM at the Arlington Central Library. All are welcomed. A flyer for this event is forthcoming.

Vendor Reports: None

New Business/Announcements: None

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Next DD Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, March 12, 2024: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Hybrid