

**Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project  
Steering Committee Meeting  
April 21, 2004**

In Attendance:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR  
George Barker, HSANV  
John Beghtol, Western State Hospital  
Mary Burger, Loudoun CSB  
Jessica Burmester, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
(Board Member)  
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI  
Mark Diorio, NVTC  
Tom Geib, Prince William CSB  
Amanda Goza, NVMHI  
Betsy Greer, NAMI Arlington/Arlington CSB  
(Board Member)

Joe Hinshaw, NVMHI Advisory Council  
Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Leslie Katz, NVTC  
Edwin H. Kline, Sr., NVMHI  
Cathy Pumphrey, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Lou Rosato, NVMHI  
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Carol Ulrich, NAMI-Northern Virginia  
Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB

Jim Thur welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. Approval of Notes from March Meeting

The notes of the March 31, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. Announcements

- Jim Thur indicated there is no update on the State budget, but it is hoped that there will be some new funding related to Olmstead.
- Jim Thur announced that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has agreed to fund a special project at George Mason University's Law School. The project will fund third year law students representing petitioners at commitment hearings. Carol Ulrich has been working on this item, and Carol indicated there is a desire to have an additional program as well related to the mental health and the law. Betsy Greer added that it is critical to get students interested in mental health law. Jim encouraged other local jurisdictions to put in money this program to make it regional.
- Lynn DeLacy announced that on May 22, the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute will hold its first Family Day. Lou Rosato is putting the event together, with the active support of the Institute's Advisory Council.
- Carol Ulrich announced that there will be a panel discussion of services available and how to access them at NAMI-Northern Virginia's general membership meeting on April 26.

3. Updates:

- Mental Health Work Group – Leslie Weisman reported that the Mental Health work group met on April 14. The group discussed the upcoming community forum. They also talked about the work of Structural Work Group and the possibility of someone from DAD being on that group. Leslie reported on each of the MH subgroups:

- The Recovery work group is a large group meeting at least monthly. They are developing a conference to be held in September.
- There was no report from the Co-Occurring disorders group, it is hoped that they will have a bigger presence in the future.
- The Forensic work group meets regularly and plans to examine a variety of issues, including: trends of people going to Western State Hospital for forensic evaluations, persons NGRI at the Institute, and the continuum of SA/MH care. Leslie noted that many times when persons are revoked, it is due to substance abuse relapse. Leslie also indicated that a consumer on that group is developing a handbook for NGRI.

Leslie indicated that Joan Durman updated the MH Work group on the geropsych meeting, and the services available at Loudoun Hospital. The group also discussed future planning, including the desire to have the three subgroups continue their work. Carol Ulrich complimented Leslie on her extensive and excellent work with these groups.

- MR/MI Work Group – Mark Diorio indicated that the group met on April 7 and reviewed an educational brochure for consumers/families. The group continues to work on prioritizing the recommendations from the initial report. Jim Thur suggested that the recommendations be prioritized into categories of things we can do locally, regionally or on the State level. Mark indicated that one of the group’s priorities is the development of a regional memoranda of agreement within CSB disability areas, in order to work more collaboratively and share resources.
- Private Psychiatric Hospitals Update – George Barker reported that 144 psychiatric beds are now at issue:
  - The State Commissioner of Health has approved HCA’s proposed closure of Northern Virginia Community (NVCH) and Dominion Hospitals, as well as the opening of a new hospital in Ashburn (Broadlands Regional Medical Center). Right now there are 120 psychiatric beds between NVCH and Dominion, and the approved plan means a net reduction of 80 beds, the closure of two adult psychiatric programs, and moving 40 child/adolescent beds to Loudoun. George indicated that several notices of appeal have been filed and the court process to come though the decision is not likely to be overturned. George reported that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has adopted a proposal to designate in their comprehensive plan certain sites where hospitals and health centers can be operated. It is unclear at this time whether HCA will be able to build in Broadlands where they currently hold property, but a decision should come by June. Planning staff from Loudoun County have indicated that in order to build a new hospital on the current HCA site, they would need a special exception as well as a zoning change. George indicated there is strong opposition from Loudoun’s Board of Supervisors on the Broadlands HCA location. It is not known what HCA plans do with the proposed new location or NVCH and Dominion Hospitals. George indicated that HCA is operating NVCH at a loss and breaking even at Dominion; their opinion is that the future of free-standing psychiatric hospitals not a profitable one. George pointed out the criticality of determining what will happen if HCA eventually stops providing child/adolescent psychiatric services.

- George reported that Inova plans to close the psychiatric unit at Alexandria Hospital and add 7 beds at Mt. Vernon Hospital; there will be a public hearing on May 4.
- George reported that Potomac Hospital plans to close its 12 bed psychiatric unit, adding that they are now operating with a small number of patients. Where those clients will go is unclear. Jim Thur reminded the group that the Partnership's Private Psychiatric Hospitals Workgroup is scheduled to meet on May 19 where they will hear a presentation on the Recovery model as well as discuss survey results. He added that a good business model for psychiatric hospital programs requires at least 30 beds. Carol Ulrich asked if there will be a shortage of beds and George replied that there will not be an aggregate shortage of beds. Cindy Kemp added it is important to note the difference between bed capacity and bed availability. Lynn DeLacy also added that there would be more beds available at the Institute if suitable placements were found for persons currently being served there outside of the Institute's normal range of care.
- George announced that Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services got a grant and is becoming a federally qualified health center. A requirement for this is to have mental health services. George indicated that locally three other initiatives are in development – Baileys Crossroads, Prince William and Loudoun. The designation of a medically underserved population is key in establishing these health centers.
- Structural Work Group – Cindy Kemp distributed a handout on the latest edition of the proposed structure for the regional partnership. A Coordinating Committee would do planning and organization functions for the Steering Committee, including communication to/from the work groups. Some changes to the documents were suggested, and it was noted that the structure could change over time. Outstanding issues include what will happen with the Northern Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, the Discharge Assistance and Diversion Steering Committee and the creation of a regional entity.
- Utilization Management/Discharge Planning Work Group – Lynn DeLacy indicated that the group did not meet.
- RPAC – Lynn DeLacy reported that the group met on April 2, and she distributed copies of materials from that meeting. The group discussed a proposed vision statement which will incorporate the Commissioner's desired emphasis on recovery, empowerment and self-determination. The group also talked about the proposed next steps for restructuring, including proposed guidance for regional strategic planning. This guidance lays out the format to follow in submitting restructuring reports. The group heard presentations from two regional partnership efforts and one special population work group.
- The regional Quality Management Committee and the Regional Training Committee have met and have embraced the opportunity to collaborate with great enthusiasm. The Training Committee has been discussing the top priorities for training (such as supervisory skills and web-based training), as well as the sharing of resources, and formation of linkages in academic settings. The Quality Management group discussed how to best integrate evidence-based practice. The group has also recommended regional goals to strengthen collaboration across CSBs and state facilities. They are looking at processes that impact consumers, including the discharge planning process, engaging consumers in follow up services, the use of emergency rooms.

- Cathy Pumphrey reported that the Information Technology group has had one meeting where they discussed the different MIS systems, the potential for exchange of information, restrictions on e-mail, and encryption.

4. Preliminary Review of Report Recommendations

Jim Thur indicated this item was not ready and would be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

5. Discussion of Community Forums and Consumer Focus Groups

Jim Thur announced that instead of having forums in each CSB-area, there will be just one regional forum. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 26 in Fairfax at the Government Center. The facilitated program will begin with a briefing on the background, findings and data. Then there will be an outline of the preliminary proposals, a summary and a discussion of next steps. A preliminary announcement about the event will be sent out prior to the next Steering Committee meeting. Several group members expressed interest in televising the program. The expected audience for the forum will be a broad group comprised anyone who has been on a work group, as well as consumers, families and advocates. It was suggested that psychiatrists in private practice be invited. Jane Anthony suggested that handouts and resources be made available. The group agreed the program should start early and be finished by noon.

Cathy Pumphrey is working to plan separate consumer focus groups with a slightly different format.

6. Other Business

- Jim Thur noted that the Central Office has asked for a write-up from our region for the next issue of the "Partnership Press."

Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at the Herrity Building (12055 Government Center Parkway) in Conference Room 106.