

**Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project
Psychiatric Hospitals Committee – Draft Meeting Notes
November 17, 2004**

In Attendance:

George Barker, Health Systems Agency of No. VA
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI
Jim Dee, Mount Vernon Hospital
Joan Durman, Consultant
Davina Flynn, NVCH-BHS
Kitty Harold, Virginia Hospital Center
Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB

Leslie Katz, NVTC
Marilyn Pasley, Arlington CSB
L. Jean Reynolds, Dominion Hospital
Lou Rosato, NVMHI
Rita Romano, Prince William CSB
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Carol Ulrich, NAMI-Northern Virginia

Introductions and Welcome

Introductions were made and attendees were welcomed. Jim Thur drew the group's attention to a Washington Post article from that day titled "Mental Health Care Emergency Looms, N. Va. Officials Warn" (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55515-2004Nov16.html>). Jim asked if anyone had concerns about the article's content and Jean Reynolds indicated that staff and patient family members of Dominion Hospital were concerned about that hospital closing. She noted that since HCA's approval to build a new hospital in Ashburn is delayed in court proceedings, it will likely be 4-5 years before Dominion would be affected. She also corrected the article's implication that beds at Northern Virginia Community Hospital are frequently empty, noting the facility is usually full. Lou Rosato noted that the Institute actually has 129 beds, not 127 as stated in the article.

1. Approval of Notes from July 1, 2004 Meeting

The notes from the July 1, 2004 meeting were reviewed and no changes were recommended.

2. New Business

- Jim Thur indicated the General Assembly is concerned about complaints on accessing psychiatric hospital beds. He noted that nationally, some states have set up databases to track bed availability and that Virginia is doing some preliminary work in this area. Jim indicated he and Alexandria CSB Executive Director Mike Gilmore are serving on a work group to begin setting up a statewide database of children's inpatient beds. He noted the Virginia Hospital Association is working with its constituency on the issue as well.
- Jim Thur drew the group's attention to recent correspondence from the DMHMRSAS Commissioner to Region 4 CSBs which indicates that when no local bed is available for TDO patients, it is the locality's responsibility to find a bed, not the State's.

3. Governor's Conference

Jim Thur indicated there will be several presentations from Northern Virginia representatives at the Governor's Conference in Richmond on December 9 and 10. Lynn DeLacy reported that Amanda Goza, Jean Reynolds, and Sally Garrett would be participating in a panel discussion of the levels of service model developed at the Institute and used to survey local inpatient psychiatric facilities. The

panel's presentation will be twenty minutes and will be followed by a question and answer session. Lynn expressed how good it is to have the region and the Partnership represented.

4. Review of Draft Discussion Guide

Jim Thur distributed updated copies of the "Discussion Outline for Regional Dialog with Public and Private Psychiatric Hospitals." He explained the Commissioner is developing a strategic plan and would need information from around the state on how to coordinate service planning between the public and private sectors. Jim indicated that several million dollars were needed to repair and replace aging state facilities, since maintenance on them has often been delayed. The General Assembly has given instructions that if funding is to be requested, the Department should be very sure of the public system's needs and how they dovetail with the private sector. The group provided feedback on the discussion outline, which Jim will provide to the Department. The group also commented that a written survey was probably not the best way to gather information on this topic, but rather a dialogue would be more appropriate. It was suggested that individual hospitals be interviewed/surveyed, then gathering a group to discuss the results. It was also suggested that Joan Durman assist with collating information received from the hospitals.

5. Billing for DAD Patients

Sharon Jones explained there was a shift in the fiscal agent responsibilities related to DAD and Fairfax is now filling that role. She indicated some hospital invoices are not being submitted to for reimbursement and asked for assistance. Group members provided Sharon with contact information for her follow-up.

6. Implications for Medicare PPS

Jim Thur asked for feedback on the news release related to Medicare's new payment system for inpatient psychiatric facilities. Jean Reynolds indicated her facility was already working with the system. It was noted that it may be an issue for Snowden, who did not have a representative at the meeting.

7. Work Plan

The possibility of conducting another hospital survey was discussed, as well as if any enhancements to the instrument were needed. Joan Durman noted several recommendations from the Hospital Subgroup were reviewed at the July meeting and asked what review would be conducted of these recommendations. She noted it would be a relevant discussion to have regardless of the survey process being done by the Commissioner's office.

8. Future Meeting Schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for January 11 from 1-3:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Rooms 9/10. The group agreed if Fairfax County schools were closed due to weather that day, the meeting would be postponed.