

**Northern Virginia MR/MI Work Group Meeting  
November 5, 2003**

The Northern Virginia MR/MI Work Group met on Wednesday, November 5, at the Northern Virginia Training Center, Executive Conference Room, Building 1.

Attending:

Mark S. Diorio, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director, NVTC  
Jessica Burmester, Board Member, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Sue Gross, Consultant, Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc.  
Fred Firestone, MR Case Mgmt. Supervisor, Loudoun County CSB  
Russell Garth, Parent  
Susan Greene, Exec. Director, Community Systems, Inc.  
Cynthia Koshatka, MH Manager, Northwest Center  
Nancy Mercer, Executive Director, The Arc of Northern Virginia  
Brian Miller, Director of MR Services, Prince William County CSB  
E. Geronimo Robinson, C.A.S., Asst. Director, Res. Ser., Alexandria Community Ser.  
Lou Rosato, DSW, LCSW, Director, Community Ser. & SW, NVMHI  
Jelena Saillard, Community Residences, Inc.  
Pat Vinson, President/Exec. Director, Job Discovery, Inc.  
Alan Wooten, Director, MR Services, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Joanna Wise-Barnes, MR/DD, State Systems Coordinator  
Leslie Katz, LCSW, Director of Social Work, NVTC  
Steve Garcia, MSW, Program Manager, Loudoun County CSB

Mark Diorio convened the meeting at 1300.

September 3, 2003 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Level of Treatment Sub-Committee Report:

Alan Wooten, Chair of the Level of Treatment Sub-Committee, reported that his sub-committee's charge was to look at the level of treatment document and further develop it as a relevant tool for this specific population to be widely used by MR professionals. After lengthy discussion, the group determined that the document would not be appropriate because the audience is very different. It was the consensus of the group that the population may need to concentrate more on dealing with crisis management. Mark Diorio suggested that the level of treatment tool be set-aside at this time and to instead focus on a resource document that would be used by the crisis worker, crisis mobile team and police. Alan Wooten agreed to contact the Jail Diversion Project personnel to find if they would be interested in working with the MR/MI Work Group.

### Training Issues:

Discussion also centered upon emergency rooms. Mark agreed to ask his Medical Director, Dr. Andrew Becker, if he would be able to contact medical directors at area hospitals and private hospitals as well to discuss availability and interest of emergency rooms personnel for training in MR/MI issues. He will also ask Dr. Becker to check with vendors (e.g., pharmaceutical companies) to find out if they would fund some training.

Brian, Joanna, Alan and Geronimo will contact local Community Services Resource Offices to see if they would be interested in dual diagnosis training.

Another area in need of training is families and consumers. This training would assist in making families and consumers more aware that people can have MR and MH issues at the same time, as well as recognizing symptoms and knowing when and where to seek help. Mark will also talk with Dr. Michael Sherer, NVTC Psychiatrist to inquire as to whether he may have some contacts with the Washington Psychiatric Society.

An Awareness and Educational Sub-Committee was formed consisting of Nancy, Russell and Pat. This Sub-Committee will focus on family/client awareness education.

### Prioritizing Recommendations from the Full Report:

Most Committee members did not have the opportunity to review the Committee's Full Report and prioritize the long list of recommendations. Steve Garcia distributed his input for the Northern Virginia MR/MH Work Group Priorities from the Full Report. It was stressed that the Committee will need to concentrate on a few recommendations from each of the 3 major areas in order to concentrate efforts and to help ensure success. Committee members agreed to review the Full Report again to determine priorities. Once that list is set, sub-committees will be formed to work on each short list for the 3 areas:

- I. Education and Training
- II. Building Capacity
- III. Funding Issues

### Funding Issues:

Discussion centered on funding and of how some CSB's are better in understanding the dynamics of state funding than other agencies.

A Resource Development Sub-Committee was developed, consisting of Steve, Brian, Susan and Jelena. Steve and Brian agreed to look into acquiring some information to present to the Work Group regarding funding as it applies to MR/MI. Susan and Jelena will provide the Work Group with ideas on crisis stabilization, paperwork, etc., that may make it easier or more difficult to subsidize.

Continuing Problem of Lack of Reliable Data on Numbers of Consumers with MR/MI:

There remains the problem of accurate data on consumers with MR/MI issues. No two CSB databases are the same and it will take some major work trying to get this information. A major problem identified is if the consumer gets services through community mental health and in that case the psychiatric diagnosis is not entered into the database. This will require a change in CSB policy. The Committee decided to collect data on:

1. MR Diagnosis,
2. Axis I Diagnosis, or
3. Axis II Borderline

Mark shared with the Committee the special edition of the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research (JIDR) that provided information on dual diagnosis issues. There was an agreement that the definition provided in this journal was better than previously accepted definitions. Mark will take the JDR Journal definition on dual diagnosis and send it out to all Work Group members. Members were asked to use that definition to gather information from their databases. Numbers may be limited to consumers who have case managers; however, this would be better than what is currently available.

Next Meeting:

The next Work Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 1:00 PM in Building 4 at the Northern Virginia Training Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark S. Diorio, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Northern Virginia MR/MI Work Group Chairman