

**Northern Virginia Regional Strategic Planning Project
Older Adults Work Group
Organizational Meeting – Draft Notes
November 18, 2004**

Attending

Donna Baker, Sunrise Assisted Living of Springfield

Joanne Burke, Potomac Health Care

Sharron Dreyer, Senior & Specialized Housing Programs, Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development

Elaine Eckert, Program for Older Adults and their Families, Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health

Karen Hannigan, The Prince William Area Agency on Aging

Kitty Harold, Virginia Hospital Center

Cynthia Irwin, Loudoun County Mental Health Center

Karen Jensen, family member (McLean)

Henriette Kellum, Aging and Disability Services Division, Senior Adult Mental Health Program, Arlington DHS

Nora Locke, Springfield Mental Health Site, Fairfax County-Falls Church CSB

Terri Lynch, Arlington Agency on Aging, DHS

Pam McDonald, Virginia Hospital Center, Psychiatric and Addiction Services

Fran McWhorter, Northern Virginia Aging Network

Jennifer Robinson, Lewinsville Adult Day Health Center

Odile Saddi, Aging and Disability Services, Arlington DHS

James Schmidt, Virginia Hospital Center, Psychiatric and Addiction Services

Shauna Severo, Fairfax County Health Department

Richard Spector, Special Populations Program, Office of Mental Health Services, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB

Erica Wood, Virginia Commonwealth Council on Aging

Chair, Anne Hermann, family member and community volunteer (Arlington)

703/524-3684, rherm65128@aol.com

1. Henriette Kellum welcomed the attendees to the inaugural meeting and introduced the Chairperson.
2. Anne Hermann asked attendees to introduce themselves and sign the roster. She discussed the organizational nature of the meeting, and the immediate purpose: to discuss issues the participants consider critical in providing mental health services to geriatric patients.
3. Richard Spector presented on the background for the work of the group, discussing the restructuring mandate and the specific geriatric focus.
4. Henriette Kellum reviewed past efforts to identify problems with and propose improvements for mental health services for geriatric patients.

5. Anne Hermann moderated the group's discussion identifying concerns as "burning issues" in the delivery of services. Over 20 issues were presented.
6. Richard Spector led a brief discussion about the value of looking for regional solutions and not just focusing on county-based approaches.
7. Anne Hermann explained that before the next meeting, a summary of the discussion of "burning issues" will be sent to group members with the issues divided into general categories for purposes of prioritizing the issues to be explored further in pursuit of choosing goals and articulating recommendations. Also, she proposed a schedule for future meetings to be held on the second Thursdays of each month.

Handouts

- 1) "Older Adults and Clients with Dementia Who Have Psychiatric/Behavioral Symptoms: Issues Related to Psychiatric Hospitalization and Institutional Placement (Nursing Homes and Assisted Living)." The Northern Virginia Alliance for Geriatric Mental Health Care (2003)
- 2) "Mental Health Care Emergency Looms, N.Va Officials Warn." The Washington Post, Metro Section, B1 (11/17/04).
- 3) Northern Virginia Regional Strategic Planning Project. "Strategic Plan and Recommendations" (August 9, 2004).

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2005, 1 – 3 p.m.