

**Northern Virginia Regional Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
July 31, 2003**

Attendees:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR	Wendy Gradison, PRS, Inc.
Mary Ann Beall	Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
John Beghtol, Western State Hospital	Leslie Katz, NVTC
Phill Bradbury, Alexandria CSB	Henriette Kellum, Arlington CSB
Ray Bridge, Laurie Mitchell Emp. Center	Cindy Kemp, Arlington CSB
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI	Bob Lassiter, Loudoun CSB
Mark Diorio, NVTC	Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Deborah Dodge, Northwest Center Adv. Board	Carol Ulrich, NAMI-Northern Virginia
Joan Durman	Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB
Tom Geib, Prince William CSB	Alan Wooten, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Mike Gilmore	Rev. Bill Yolton, NoVa NAMI
Amanda Goza, NVMHI	

The notes of June 26, 2003 were accepted.

Jim Thur noted that the group should celebrate the work that has been accomplished during the project thus far. Some significant events have transpired, including bringing the nine area private hospitals together to work with the partnership, and developing DAD.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Thur reported that VA ACCSES has submitted its grant to the Department of Labor, with the endorsement of the Regional Partnership.
- Jim Thur indicated that the regional CSBs were scheduled to sign the DAD Reinvestment interim contract later that day. The remaining issues will be worked out and a more specific contract will be developed for implementation on November 1.
- Jim Thur drew the group's attention to a handout on Virginia's draft submission to the Center for Mental Health Services for the Community Mental Health Services Block grant for 2004. This document is out for public comment until August 20. Ray Bridge indicated that one of the jobs of the Mental Health Planning Council, which he chairs, is to keep an eye on the expenditure of block grant money in mental health, and noted that they would comment on the report. Mr. Bridge indicated that the submission is an opportunity to describe the mental health system and its limitations. Mr. Bridge indicated he will forward any comments he receives to the Department. Mr. Bridge encouraged the group to read the Executive Summary of the document and noted that the state has reduced targets for what it would achieve due to funding cuts.

UPDATES FROM WORK GROUPS

Mental Health:

- Leslie Weisman indicated that the group met on July 29 but minutes were not yet available. Ms. Weisman indicated that it was a productive meeting, where the initial Partnership report was reviewed in detail. The group also reviewed its membership, with an eye for ensuring that there are representatives from every service area, as well as with an eye for diversity. The group chose to make the second Wednesday of every month from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. their regular meeting time, with the month of August off. The group will continue meeting at NVMHI. Ms. Weisman reported that the group hopes to hold a recovery event in the spring, including a symposium or exhibits. The group noted the unmet need for crisis stabilization as a diversion from hospitals, as well as a step down from hospitals. Regarding membership, Ray Bridge noted that persons from the Northern Virginia Mental Health Consumers Association as well as consumers from each CSB would be helpful. Mr. Bridge added that morning meetings are difficult for consumers to get to. Ms. Weisman replied that the group agreed to hold its meetings from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

MR/MI Work Group:

- Mark Diorio indicated that the MR/MI Work Group's report is included in the full interim report as Appendix H, and briefly discussed the issues that the group has reviewed.

Private Psychiatric Hospitals Committee:

- Leslie Weisman indicated that the CSB Aftercare Coordinators attended the last Private Hospital Committee meeting and had good discussions on discharge planning, resources, and assistance, noting that private hospitals and CSBs face many of the same challenges. The Private Hospital Committee has asked to continue the discussion of role definitions for CSBs and private hospitals. The group will then shift its focus to the older adult population.
- Lynn DeLacy added that over next month, the private hospitals will apply another snapshot tool to look at cultural diversity, medication and other issues. It is hoped that this information will provide a foundation from which the service roles between public and private sector can be examined.
- Ms. DeLacy indicated that the Private Psychiatric Hospitals Committee will now meet on the third Wednesday of each month in afternoon.

REVIEW OF FORMAT AND OUTLINE OF INITIAL REPORT

Jim Thur thanked the other members of the writing committee, Sharon Jones, Leslie Weisman, Mary Ann Beall, Lynn DeLacy, Amanda Goza and Joan Durman. Mr. Thur indicated that it will be approximately another week for edits from this meeting to be incorporated into the report, before it is submitted to the Department.

Mr. Thur proposed that a special page be inserted dedicating the report to Caitlin Binning, who died recently of a brain tumor. Ms. Binning was a lifelong advocate, and

she was involved in the early stages of the Partnership, particularly with writing the group's vision statement. It was unanimously agreed that this be done.

The group reviewed the initial report draft page by page, and submitted editorial and content corrections. Joan Durman will incorporate these changes into the report.

Lynn DeLacy expressed the thanks of the group to Ms. Durman and Mr. Thur for all their good work in preparing the report.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Modification of Membership** – The group discussed whether the current membership has enough cultural diversity. Several members indicated their opinion that more cultural diversity is needed. Jim Thur indicated that many of the persons who have an interest in this area are already so busy that they can't get involved with any additional activities. Mr. Thur proposed working with the regional Community Resiliency group which is extremely diverse. Ray Bridge added that getting consumers involved could also improve the group's diversity. The need for an orientation session of training package for consumers and families who would like to get involved with the group was discussed. Mary Ann Beall indicated that she has a training program she developed for an earlier project which might be modified to fit this group. Ms. Beall, Jane Anthony, and Cindy Kemp agreed to work on modifying these materials and report back to the group in September. Deborah Dodge commented that when she was invited to participate in the group, she took time to review minutes and other documents on the web site to prepare for her involvement. Ms. Dodge added that a training notebook that includes terminology and important policies would be helpful.

NEXT MEETING

The group agreed that meetings will be scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. The group will not meet in August off. Jim Thur indicated that from September to December, the group will focus on refining and gathering data. Mr. Thur added that January to March will be spent focusing on synthesizing things and identifying options. From April to June, the group might go back to the larger community to share information, possibly holding public forums.

The next meeting was set for September 24 at 1 p.m.