

**Josiah H. Beeman Commission
Meeting of February 16, 2007
12000 Government Center Parkway
Room 232**

In Attendance:

Gerald Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Catherine Hudgins, Board Supervisor and Chair, Human Services Committee
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive, Fairfax County
Verdia Haywood, Deputy County Executive (DCE), Fairfax County
Mary Ann Beall, Chair, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
Mary Ann Bergeron, Executive Director, VA Association of Community Services Boards
Gary Cyphers, Deputy Executive Director, Communications & Members Services
American Public Human Services Association
David Dangerfield, Retired Chief Executive Officer, Valley Mental Health
Joan Dodge, Senior Policy Associate, National Technical Center for Children's Mental
Health (Georgetown University)
Diane Grieder, Owner/President, Alipar, Inc.
Chuck Hall, Executive Director, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
Sonia Jurich, Senior Research Associate, RMC Research Corp., Arlington, Virginia
Ronald Manderscheid, Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Programs Constella
Group, Inc.
Mattie Palmore, Vice Chair, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board,
Special Magistrate
Russell Pierce, Private Consultant Public Health Advisor, Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Admin. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Sherry Rose, Peer Advocate
James Stewart, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General for Mental Health,
Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
Carol Ulrich, President, National Alliance for Mental Illness of Northern Virginia,
Member of Virginia Chief Justice's Commission on Mental Health Law Reform
Margo Kiely, Josiah H. Beeman Commission Staff Director
Kathaleen Karnes, Management Analyst, Fairfax County
Louise Wilson, Josiah H. Beeman Commission Support

Welcome: Margo Kiely, Staff Director for the Josiah H. Beeman Commission, opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance and thanked everyone for taking an interest in becoming part of the Commission. Mary Ann Beall, Chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, also conveyed her thanks and welcome to everyone in attendance. She remarked on what an honor it is to meet such an important group of people that have come together to become the Josiah H. Beeman Commission. Ms. Beall then gave background information on the Commission and spoke of the need for all of the outside experts who make up

the Commission to think about the structure of service delivery as we begin this very important work. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has taken a high interest in the work of this Commission and in the recommendations for change that will emerge. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board has met with Tony Griffin, and the planning for this important project has been put in the very capable hands of Verdía Haywood. Ms. Beall said that she hoped that this work excites everyone on the Commission and again welcomed and thanked everyone for coming together to make this commitment.

Opening Remarks: Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Gerald Connolly thanked Ms. Beall for her summary of the need and importance of the Commission. Everyone is affected in some way by mental illness. The Chairman went on to remark that if the only recommendations to emerge from the Commission are for additional funding, that is not going to happen. Increased funding is not the only solution, and the Board will be interested in how current resources are utilized. Unfortunately, mental illness is not the only slice of the pie when facing budget commitments. Virginia does not lead the nation in what we want to do or need to do for people with mental illness. Chairman Connolly stated that we may need changes in legislation, and that the Board has a Legislative Committee which would consider recommendations for that. This is not just an organizational issue for Fairfax County. It's more than that.

Chairman Connolly continued to say that the Board of Supervisors wants the Commission's full commitment to perform the job thoughtfully. The need for help when it comes to mental illness is great. A young man in Fairfax County with mental illness killed two of our Police Officers. In this instance, we failed when this young man cried out for help. The Board of Supervisors is very sympathetic and will work with you. The Chairman thanked the Commissioners and introduced Supervisor Catherine Hudgins, Chair of the Human Services Committee of the Board.

Supervisor Hudgins thanked everyone for taking the time from their busy schedules to become part of this important project and to do this work with the resources we have. The generosity of the community provides what we need so that we are capable of doing our best. However, this is not just financial. Ms. Hudgins expressed her hope that out of this difficult situation new solutions will arise. She said that she is looking forward to the outcome.

County Executive Tony Griffin stated that he is charged by the Board of Supervisors to have the most efficient and productive outcome from the Commission. He is looking for recommendations on how we can become a more efficient and productive organization. He committed himself to work with the Commission and its staff and to listen to the recommendations. He then mentioned that the County always intends to run a good system, but the County is always willing to work and to listen to others to improve the system. He thanked the Commissioners for their commitment.

Josiah H. Beeman Commission Member Introductions:

The Commissioners then introduced themselves.

There are four Commission Members who were not present: Larry Davidson, Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of Yale University Program for Recovery and Community Health; Robert Drake, Professor, Psychiatry and Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School; Yvette Sangster, Program Director, Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illnesses, Georgia Advocacy; and, Delegate Jim Scott of the Virginia General Assembly. These Members will be attending future meetings.

Agenda Review: The Commission reviewed the meeting agenda for the current meeting as well as the agenda for the forthcoming meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2007.

Commitment to Serve as a Member:

The Commissioners were asked to share their individual interest and motivations to serve on the Commission. Motives included wanting to be of service, wanting to provide leadership in these changes, wanting to improve the experiences of individuals and families dealing with mental illness, and appreciation for the opportunity to learn together. The requests to work on the Commission were effective in part because of the reputation of the County and the commitment of the Board of Supervisors.

Orientation to Fairfax:

DCE Verdia Haywood provided a presentation about Fairfax County to the Josiah H. Beeman Commission (copy attached). He stated that he is really excited about the work of the Commission. He said that he likes change, learning, and development. Linkages make a difference and provide opportunities to increase excellent services. Mr. Haywood shared his discomfort with the current system and his objective of achieving an outcome of recovery and wellness. Verdia then thanked everyone very much for participating in this group and said he is really looking forward to it.

The Commissioners engaged in a question and answer period.

Getting Organized:

Margo Kiely informed the Commissioners of the development of a web page for the Commission and introduced Greg Licamele from the Office of Public Affairs who will be assisting the Commission.

Kathaleen Karnes discussed the Proposed Initial Group Agreements which were adopted by the Commission.

Louise Wilson provided ACH Payment Program brochures along with Request for Taxpayer Identification Number forms and asked Members to fill these forms out and return to our office along with all receipts for reimbursement in the self-stamped envelopes provided.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 p.m.