

# Board Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2011



NEW RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Questions or Comments? Please contact Melissa Jackson, Clerk of the Board, at 961-8421.*

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Vicky Collins, at 6:59 p.m. Roll call was read by Melissa Jackson, Clerk of the Board.

## **\*\*\*Minutes:**

Neal Turner moved that the minutes of the August 25, 2011 Board meeting be approved. Bob Nicholson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **Recognition of Guests:**

Five Radford University students majoring in social work introduced themselves as guests. Two of those students, Stephanie Dalton and Allyson Yeatts, are also employed by NRVCS.

## **Public Comment:**

None.

## **Program Presentation:**

Harvey Barker, NRVCS Executive Director, distributed a flyer published by the US Department of Health and Human Services on the subject of Mental Health Recovery. Barker briefly discussed the 10 Fundamental Components of this recovery model, one of which is Peer Support. Barker then described the NRVCS Peer Specialist Program and detailed how the program relates to the recovery model.

Barker introduced speaker Mary Kneisley, a Peer Specialist in the ICT (Intensive Community Treatment) program. Kneisley shared her personal struggles with mental health and her introduction to services at NRVCS and the ICT program. Kneisley reported she is now symptom-free after a lifelong battle with mental health issues. Kneisley expressed gratitude for the opportunity to support other consumers as a Peer Specialist and contributed her current health to working in a job that is recovery oriented and receiving proper medication.

Barker introduced speaker Gary Johansen, a Peer Specialist in Bridge Program. Johansen briefly described Bridge as a jail diversion program for people with mental illness. Johansen reported his role in the program involves serving as a liaison to the courts as well as providing support to consumers. Johansen shared his personal story of recovery from depression and described the agency services that assisted him. Johansen expressed a great deal of pride in the Bridge Program's ability to make a difference in the lives of consumers. Johansen's final message to the audience was, "Don't let mental illness define you; you define yourself."

## **Finance Committee Report:**

Dr. William Greenberg, Chair, reported there were no updates from the Finance Committee.

## **Child and Family Services Committee:**

Robert Hiss presented the CFS Committee report. Hiss reported the VICAP assessment program is moving forward but there are concerns the time required to perform the assessments might be causing delays in treatment. With Managed Care coming on board soon, there is a possibility a hybrid version of VICAP will be created to perform adult assessments. Hiss also discussed the proposed CFS expansion in Pulaski County. Hiss reported on SMART Beginnings and some of the programs and initiatives that might result from that.

\*\*\* = Agenda Action Items

## **Agenda Action Items**

**Minutes - August 25, 2011**  
*Approved*

## **Members Present:**

Vicky Collins, Chair  
Robert Hiss, Co-Chair  
Bill Greenberg  
Rebecca Hubble  
John Muffo  
Bob Nicholson  
Scarlet Ratcliffe  
Neal Turner

## **Members Absent:**

Bill Gardner  
(with notice)  
Kathy Hubbard  
(with notice)  
Sally McCarthy  
(with notice)  
Trish Muldoon  
(with notice)

## **Others Present:**

Harvey Barker  
Melissa Jackson, Clerk of the Board  
Gary Johansen  
Mary Kneisley  
Lucy McCandlish  
Bobby Miglani  
Rosemary Sullivan  
Cheri Warburton

## **Guests/RU Students:**

Stephanie Dalton  
Tiffany Martin  
Danielle Quarry  
Lindsey Stocks  
Allyson Yeatts

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## **Adult and Family Services/ACCESS Committee:**

Neal Turner, Chair, presented the AFS/ACCESS Committee report. Turner reported on the ID Regional Crisis Stabilization project that will be overseen by NRVCS. The program, named START, is being created as a result of the Department of Justice report and the closing of Training Centers in Virginia. Turner reported AFS Director Lucy McCandlish has worked diligently on the \$2 million project which will serve a large region of the state and hopefully create some new revenue for NRVCS. Turner noted the ACCESS proposal for additional funding at New Horizons is one of the top 3 proposals in the state and may garner \$250k in funding for management, with an additional \$20k in funding for one-time costs. Turner shared several staff members attended the recent CIT International conference at Virginia Beach. Finally, Turner reported ACCESS Director Cheri Warburton has announced her retirement effective April 19, 2012.

## **Executive Committee Report:**

Vicky Collins, Chair, reported the committee did not meet prior to the Board meeting.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

Harvey Barker, NRVCS Executive Director, presented his report. Barker commented there is a tremendous amount of creative energy being produced by the agency's staff. He expressed pride in the various services being developed in all the units which are interesting, innovative, and state of the art. Barker noted the CIT Conference was attended by hundreds of people from all over the world and Barker was proud to hear the NRV CIT program mentioned several times in the presence of such an audience.

Barker reported the AFS unit received a grant last year that enables NRVCS to provide Mental Health First Aid training to the public free of charge. Those trainings are underway and are being attended by a wide variety of professionals in the area. Barker and Cheri Warburton participated in a cross system mapping meeting this week; a project that explores keeping people with mental illness out of the legal system. The meeting was well attended by a broad spectrum of professionals including law enforcement, mental health providers, and emergency room staff.

Barker reported on the issue of managed behavioral health for Medicaid recipients. The deadline for the new process is July of 2012 and Barker is unsure how the new process will affect the agency. Agency services will likely require authorization for payment. The CSB Association is still hoping to partner with the managing agency in an effort to prevent service restriction and reduced quality. The RFP for the managing agency goes out in October and a decision should be made by January 2012. Barker will keep the Board informed on progress.

## **Board Member Comments:**

Robert Hiss announced Pulaski County was awarded a \$1.3 million Community Block Grant to be used for tornado rebuilding efforts in the county. Hiss reported on a dedication ceremony tomorrow for one of the newly rebuilt homes. Neal Turner expressed gratitude and praise for tonight's program speakers and asked the agency to consider recognizing future speakers with a small token of appreciation.

## **Chairman's Report:**

Vicky Collins echoed Turner's statements, adding it is both impressive and powerful to see hear the stories of consumers and the Board appreciates their courage.

## **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Neal Turner moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Bob Nicholson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Minutes approved on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Jackson, Clerk of the Board