

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Members present:* James Reinhard (DMHMRSAS), Lee Price (DMHMRSAS), Becky Woodruff (Family Member), Alice Johnson (Family Member), Chip Dodd (Provider), Tim Capoldo (Norfolk CSB), Kathy Patton (SVTC), Christina Vernon (SVTC), Mark Stevens (VOPA), Jamie Trosclair (The Arc), Delegate Phil Hamilton (VA General Assembly), Senator John Miller (VA General Assembly), Senator Harry Blevins (VA General Assembly), Delegate John Cosgrove (VA General Assembly), Bob Latimer (Family Member), Sandra Cobb (SEVTC Resident), Roxanne Garner (SEVTC Resident), Mark Diorio (NVTC), Brian Whitesell (SEVTC Staff), Bob Shrewsbury (SEVTC Director), David Coe (Colonial CSB), Jennifer Fidura (VNPP), Chuck Hall (Hampton/NN CSB), Wanda Barnard-Bailey (City of Chesapeake)

**OVERVIEW OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ACTIONS AWAITING GOVERNOR'S ACTION**

*Commissioner Reinhard reviewed current legislative actions for SEVTC awaiting Governor's approval. Senator Blevins asked about rumors that the Governor plans to veto the action from the GA. Delegate Hamilton shared a conversation that he had with the Governor yesterday and there was no mention of intended significant changes regarding SEVTC. Delegate Hamilton also spoke with Secretary Tavenner yesterday and she indicated there may be changes to language. Senator Miller and Delegate Cosgrove also received similar information from the Secretary and Governor's staff and it appears there are no plans to veto the SEVTC budget line item.*

*Delegate Hamilton addressed the question about how the number of 75 came forward. It was based upon a proposal several years ago from DMHMRSAS for a smaller facility of 100 and the size of the St. Mary's Home being 75 beds. Because this number has worked for the St. Mary's facility, it was thought to be a reasonable proposal for SEVTC.*

*Jennifer Fidura commented about the advocacy community's request to the Governor to restore \$1.6 million for the congregate residential services rate. This is a critical sum of money for the community providers to continue offering smaller residential options.*

*Alice Johnson asked about the comparison to St. Mary's for the 75 beds. Should it have been based on a children's residential facility or a comparable setting intended for adults? Delegate Hamilton indicated that the intent was for the facility size to be based upon the assessments of individuals' needs. Alice Johnson asked if the number of beds could change. Delegate Hamilton indicated that it is a possibility, but emphasized that the General Assembly's intent was that the final facility number would be based on*

assessments for individuals. The Commissioner added that this approach really is the best science for determining the size of center-based services.

#### UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS:

- ◆ Individual Transition & Provider Development  
March 9, 2009 Meeting Update

*Lee Price provided an update of the meeting held on March 9, 2009 (handout). The facilitator worked with small groups to discuss different topics related to closure/downsizing of SEVTC. The work of the groups resulted in several common themes:*

- *Need for a safety net (RCSC, a way for dealing with crisis situations)*
- *Behavioral resources*
- *Utilization of bond dollars to develop homes to address behavioral challenges*
- *Suggestion to wait to determine the number of beds for SEVTC to allow for the development of the community infrastructure with the bond dollars*

*Jennifer Fidura was impressed with the outcomes of the meeting and recognized that there is still angst and concern remaining for some people. The process should be individualized to the maximum extent possible. Many people will feel better when we begin working on and determining the details.*

*Lee Price provided an update on the status of assessments. The CSBs did complete preliminary assessments, but the next step will be to complete a comprehensive assessment using a tool called the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). These assessments have been started and should be completed by May. Chuck Hall added that all of the Tidewater boards have completed in-depth assessments and plans submitted to the department for the use of the capital bond funds were based on these assessments. The CSBs do not challenge the use of the SIS, but urge the Department to move quickly into the community housing development based on the proposals submitted by the region.*

*Mark Diorio asked about the services that were listed in the work session as currently available and whether they are sufficient to meet identified needs. Will the capital bond funds be opened to allow flexibility in expanding services? Delegate Hamilton explained that the GA was faced with dealing with the proposed closure and finding placements for 165 people. The current proposed package will build a smaller SEVTC and build other smaller homes spread throughout Hampton Roads. The \$32 million is primarily for building, renovating, or purchasing facilities for SEVTC residents. Delegate Hamilton also addressed the fact that the GA put back 200 MR Waiver Slots and added an additional 200 slots. Legislation was also passed to eliminate the urgent waiting list within the next decade and will provide a targeted focus to move toward that goal.*

*David Coe added that the funds will cover a good bit of the residential need, but is concerned that there are still limitations for the development of day support services. Mark Diorio added that there are still individuals who have a lot of clinical needs and providers do not have the capacity or are not willing to take on these types of service recipients. Chuck Hall added that the HPR-V's plans took into account all the needs identified for individuals and propose an RCSC/crisis response capacity. The region continues to recommend the development of a trust fund established from the proceeds of SEVTC land sale to make a statement of permanency for residents/families. Delegate Hamilton followed with clarification that HB1995 would result in the establishment of a*

*trust fund. (This may be related to MH facilities, but Department staff will obtain clarification).*

*Jamie Trosclair added that there are more people living in the community with serious behavioral challenges or clinical needs than ever before and suggested that the focus needs to be on developing the community infrastructure to support individuals no matter what the need. The current investments proposed for the community infrastructure will also eventually provide support to those people waiting for services in the community.*

#### DISCUSSION OF FUTURE ROLE OF A SMALLER SEVTC

*Bob Shrewsberry indicated that the general notion nationwide is that state operated facilities serve individuals with intense medical needs and/or behavioral challenges. Other states moving in this direction have a rigorous community support center for those living in the community but need services not provided in the traditional community system.*

*Pat Bennett shared her daughter's experience as an example for individuals that need intensive medical care.*

*Jamie Trosclair indicated that the trend across the country is to support people with this level of need in the community and more and more families are working to keep loved ones at home. These type of individuals would benefit more from services related to a center for excellence to be available in the community rather than in a center-based atmosphere.*

*Commissioner asked for Bob Shrewsberry to comment on the feasibility of "getting to" 75 beds. Bob answered that this type of capability turns on the ability of the system to build the community infrastructure. Ideally employees from SEVTC could move to services provided in smaller ICF/MRs.*

*Chuck Hall shared that some family members may think they are a legal guardian rather than the authorized representative. His impression is that there is no legal authority for authorized reps. Families need to clarify their role as implementation of downsizing occurs. Family members may have a role in participating in assessments, but without legal authority there will not be a role in making decisions about specific placement for the individual. Delegate Hamilton encouraged families to understand what they have in place to participate in decision making for their loved ones. Jamie Trosclair provided some clarification about different levels of decision making authority, but suggested that individuals who can make their own decision continue to have that right. Alice Johnson agreed that families should make sure they know what is place for decision making. She also asked about the ability to leave power of attorney for decision making if the designated legal guardian is not available for an extended period of time? David Coe answered that power of attorney can be many different things, but is based on what is written into the legal documents. If family members use this option, it should be written specifically. The Commissioner offered the OAG to attend a meeting to share information on the different types of guardianship and decision making roles.*

*Alice Johnson also asked why Virginia is working so hard to align with national trends. The Commissioner responded that our work is focused more importantly on evidence-based or best practices, which generally mirror what is happening across the country.*

*Alice Johnson asked for clarification about choice of individuals to remain at SEVTC. What if there are more people choosing SEVTC than beds that will be available? Chuck Hall responded that the boards plan to build and offer facilities/homes that families will choose over SEVTC.*

*Pat Bennett suggested the development of a parent support group to assist them with working through their concerns and desires for accountability. This approach would help to reduce fear and anxiety to a certain extent.*

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

*Mrs. Reid expressed confusion about where the 75 bed facility will be built. The Commissioner responded that this has not been clarified yet, but it could be on a smaller footprint of the current campus. Mrs. Reid also wanted to know if stimulus money is being used to make these changes and if so would eligibility requirements for individuals be changed. Delegate Hamilton clarified that this proposal will be expended from state capital bond funds already appropriated in the budget. No eligibility will change for individuals and that it is expected that services will meet or exceed what is currently provided. Mrs. Reid expressed concern that families' voices are not being heard if there is still a proposal to move people to the community.*

*Roxanne Garner asked if she will be discharged. The Commissioner responded that Roxanne will continue to be a part of the committee and will help to make the decision about where she will live.*

*Sandra Cobb asked if Diane could go with her to the community.*

*Mike Denneberry stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be here. He asked who receives the comments from the advisory committee and who is listening when families say that there are no services in the community for their loved one. The Commissioner commented that people have been listening during this very difficult process and changes have been made from the original proposal. The process will continue to have an evolution to determine what is or is not working and what is ultimately in the best interest of individuals. Pat Bennett added that over 6,000 have been discharged from Virginia's training centers and this really isn't new for us. Significant and important changes have occurred in the service system and will continue to change. Tim Capoldo responded that information does go back to the directors of ID services at CSBs and the Executive Directors of the boards do know what is happening. There are many people working together.*

*Barbara Rose thanked the legislators for their support. She encouraged parents to have decision making/guardianship in place. She expressed appreciation to the staff at SEVTC for continuing support the residents.*

*Joy Kupchik indicated that SEVTC is not an institution; it is a training center. Where are parents in the completion of the assessments for individuals? Her family has not been contacted about her daughter's assessment. Lee Price commented that the Supports Intensity Scale assessments will include family members. DMHMRSAS staff will follow-up with Mrs. Kupchik to ensure she and her husband are involved in their daughter's assessment process.*

*Jean Beale commented that she is thankful for the services she and her daughter receive. She is pleased with the medical services that are provided with her daughter's*

recent illness. She thanked Delegate Hamilton for how is serving his constituents. Mrs. Bill expressed thanks for receiving the list of services and options that are available in the community.

Sonny Beale is concerned that there are people in Hampton Roads jails that have mental retardation and mental illness. Does anyone care about them? The Commissioner responded that there are a lot of people are working to deal with this very critical issue. Interception of these people before they enter the criminal justice system is having some progress but more is needed. Chuck Hall commented that several CSBs in the Tidewater region have received jail diversion funds to address this very issue.

Steve Johnson from the Endependence Center in Norfolk commented that the Centers for Independent Living are looking forward to support individuals moving to more independent lifestyles. He suggested that there are many options available and hope that people will be able to and choose to live independently. He also expressed appreciation to the Commissioner for holding this advisory committee meeting.

Adrian Bishop suggested that 161 individuals continue to need services at SEVTC and staff are needed to support them. SEVTC continues to have staff losses and does not see movement to replace/retain staff. She has participated in several SIS evaluations and they take a couple hours each. She is concerned about the amount of time needed to do these. She is also pleased to hear that attention is being paid to develop community infrastructure. It will take a lot of work to move 85-90 people.

Dave Long stated he is dealing with questions from family members on what is happening on a daily basis. It would helpful to have a place where the latest information can be accessed to answer these questions. The Commissioner responded that we will work to ensure there is good communication to staff.

Chuck Hall suggested the establishment of a transition committee.

#### ESTABLISH AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

✓ April 30, 2009

- *Presentation by OAG on guardianship*
- *Updates from committee working on capital investment*
- *Update on assessments to date*
- *Clarification of what we mean by capacity*
- *Hearing from individuals/parents who have been placed and the factors they finally found that made move to the community something they could cope with*
- *Guidance for other training centers on accepting transfers from SEVTC*
- *Practical time table for implementation and prioritizing those individuals most ready for community transition*

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 30, 2009 ♦ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM