

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members present: James Reinhard (DMHMRSAS), Lee Price (DMHMRSAS), Wanda Barnard-Bailey (City of Chesapeake), Representative for Senator Louise Lucas, David Coe (Colonial CSB), Chuck Hall (Hampton-Newport News CSB), Chip Dodd (provider), Kathy Patton (SVTC), Jamie Trosclair (The Arc of Virginia), Mark Stevens (VOPA), Pat Bennett (PAIR), Mark Diorio (NVTC), Bob Shrewsbury (SEVTC), Alice Johnson (family member), Tim Capoldo (Norfolk CSB), Bob Latimer (family member)

FINAL REVIEW OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENTIONS FOR 75 BED SEVTC APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR 10:10 AM

Commissioner Reinhard reviewed the final legislative language regarding the rebuild of SEVTC to 75 beds and the corresponding community-based residences. The Commissioner read the language from the Acts of the Assembly 103.05.

Chip Dodd asked for clarification about the language saying that the 75 beds would be built in another location. The Commissioner clarified that the language does not specify a location so the current SEVTC campus is an option in addition to others.

UPDATES ON DOWNSIZING IMPLEMENTATION 10:30 AM

- Capital Investment Work Group Update

The Commissioner updated the committee on the suspension of this work group following the assignment of DGS as the lead on the capital projects in the GA language. We are currently awaiting review of a Public/Private Enterprise Act (PPEA) proposal from a private contractor to build part or all of the capital projects.

Jamie Trosclair asked if the committee/agency would have the ability to hear/review other proposals beyond the one that has been submitted this week. The Commissioner reviewed the PPEA process and explained that a period of time will be established by DGS for alternative proposals to be submitted.

Chuck Hall indicated he is unsure if the private developer has included all of the capital projects in its proposal, but the CSBs would welcome these projects being completed by a private firm.

Mark Diorio explained that a "PPEA Checklist" had been used by the department in previous years when considering proposals for housing development and the training center rebuild.

Jamie Trosclair shared that she considers this as an opportunity for person-centered planning to be a part of housing development for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Bob Shrewsberry and Mark Diorio discussed a document that outlined guidelines for developing housing for people with disabilities. This includes use of universal design. Alice Johnson requested that committee review this document and Mark indicated that it is part of meeting minutes from the Advisory Consortium for Intellectual and Development Disabilities (TACIDD).

- SIS Assessments for SEVTC Residents

Lee Price provided an update on the assessments being conducted and the last meeting of the Transition Leadership Team for SEVTC. Staff at the facility received training recently on being interviewers for SIS assessments. Some assessments have already been done by CSB interviewers and SEVTC staff that has been trained will complete the remaining assessments. Lee reported a conversation he had with Judy Blooms (a committee member not able to attend the 4/30 meeting) and her experience participating in the SIS assessment for her brother. She told Lee she was pleasantly surprised by the questions asked and the level of information gathered about her brother. All of the assessments will be completed by the end of May. Lee updated that the SIS assessment and person-centered planning processes are included in the new MR Waiver application submitted this year and that feedback from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been favorable.

The Transition Leadership Team held discussion last week about making sure families are well informed about the options available in the community. This can be better accomplished by having a clear vision and understanding of the use and purpose of the 75-bed SEVTC.

The Commissioner asked if there is a ranking on the SIS scale so that at the end of May we will know what people will be likely to receive in regard to services. Lee clarified that the SIS outcomes are descriptive and there is a level of ranking of supports based on the individuals' needs. It does not mean that people who fall in a certain ranking will get a certain service or placement. It is a guide to be used.

Pat Bennett asked what protections will be built-in for doing the assessments where individuals cannot speak for themselves and may not have a family member to participate in the SIS assessment. Lee clarified that all residents of SEVTC have a guardian or authorized representative or family member that will be asked to participate in the assessment and it is very important to have someone present at the assessments that knows the person very well.

A smaller group is being formed that includes CSBs, parents, providers, etc. that will closely monitor the progress made by CSBs to engage families and support community transitions for individuals. Lee reported that provider information sessions are being planned so that people and families can learn about the providers' services. These will be done in each locality over the next several months. This is also an opportunity for SEVTC staff to check out employment opportunities.

Mark Diorio reported on a discussion held at another meeting yesterday where Jennifer Fidura (committee member not able to attend the 4/30 meeting) expressed concern about the 1.5% congregate rate decrease that will go in effect for MR Waiver providers in July.

Chuck Hall asked if the advisory committee could receive a conclusion of sorts (not person by person) of the outcomes of the SIS assessments. A big picture presentation

of what people will need without the factor of choice. Lee indicated we could have this information for the June meeting.

Alice Johnson asked if other tools are being used and how it will come down to the decision made. Lee remarked that other tools are used and that there is a lot of information available on each person. It ultimately comes down to the team of people, including family, that will make the decision about the services needed and where the services are available to meet those needs and develop the plan to transition the person to that service setting, if appropriate. The Commissioner added that he understands the families are concerned that more than 75 people will want/need the beds available in the new facility. Some people involved in this process believe that we may not need that many beds based on the assessments that have been and are being conducted. Alice pointed out that her information/sources indicate that more people are interested in staying with the 75 beds. The Commissioner offered that these decisions will be affected by how we determine the new SEVTC will be used in the service system.

Chip Dodd shared an explanation of the SIS assessment including a high level of inter-rater reliability, providing a more concrete determination of a person's needs. Chip explained different levels of services offered by the community and the impact of resource allocation including the payment of staff for care. There is give and take in these factors for group homes. Sponsored residential services provide care that reduces the factors for a provider to ensure that the level of care can be higher because the cost of operating the home are part of the "host family's" responsibility. He expressed for a lot of people, this is a good model to meet their needs.

Committee members made additional points about different service options in the community, including the need for enhanced licensing and oversight services. Chuck Hall suggested that at a future meeting the committee receive a presentation on the various service models and the cost structure for each. The Commissioner agreed that this is a good presentation idea and is pleased to hear that the committee is having open and honest discussion about the services system "warts and all."

FURTHER DISCUSSION and CLARIFICATION
OF FUTURE ROLE OF A SMALLER SEVTC

10:50 AM

The Commissioner distributed a draft document of purpose statements for the future SEVTC. He further explained that this is receiving a high degree of attention from the Secretary's and Governor's offices. Steve Harms, Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, will be intimately involved in tracking the time lines and outcomes for this project.

- Provide services and supports for individuals who present skilled nursing needs that cannot currently be met in a community home with goals and efforts to attain an appropriate community residence*
- Provide services and supports for individuals who present behavioral challenges that require short-term, intensive intervention to return to the community*
- Provide services and supports for individuals that require short-term respite and/or stabilization*
- Provide services and supports for individuals that require short-term medication stabilization*
- Provide services and supports for facility and community residents through the Regional Community Support Center*

Bob Shrewsberry asked if the intention of the draft to identify skilled nursing as a service to be provided and is different from ICF? Chuck Hall suggested that the language be amended and the committee discussed various options (complex medical needs). Chuck also suggested that there be more description of community home in the first bullet ("waiver" "sponsored residential"). Jamie encourages use of words that represent "community integration." The committee members had additional discussion about the meaning of terms community and institution. The committee agreed to use the term "residences" in place of "community home."

Alice Johnson shared that she has observed a lot of time has been spent at these meetings about inclusion and integration. She added that she is an integration teacher in the public schools and her experience is that it is not for everyone. She offered that she believes that there needs to be a variety of options and she is more concerned with what these new options are, where they are going to be, and when she can begin transitioning her child to one of them if it is appropriate. She expressed concern that there are almost 5000 people on a waiting list with no where to go. She believes that one of her children will continue to live at SEVTC and one will be able to transition to another option. She agreed with the Commissioner that it is a good activity for the committee to give advice on the purpose of the new SEVTC.

Mark Diorio observed that these bullet points indicate that the facility will be used as a safety net to provide short term supports getting people stabilized and/or ready to move to or return to their home. Chuck Hall and others agreed that this is appropriate. Alice Johnson asked when it is determined that "short term" is up. There was discussion that this would occur when an appropriate alternative placement is secured. Alice offered that she believes if the facility provided short term respite that many more families would be able to support their loved ones at home. Lee Price and Mark Diorio discussed that training centers were originally developed to be an "intermediate" step. Lee added that it will be important to have some clarification on the meaning of short term.

Mr. Sivertson from the audience shared that former commissioner Hiram Davis intended SEVTC to be a long term care facility and include complete medical care. He added that by the nature of a down-size to 75 beds, some people will be "forced out." He cautioned the committee in its consideration of the SEVTC purpose being more short-term care and safety net in nature.

The committee agreed to the following edits to the first bullet: **Provide services and supports for individuals who present complex medical needs that cannot currently be met in residences with goals and efforts to attain an appropriate community residence.** The committee also agreed to the remaining bullets with no edit suggestions.

The Commissioner shared conversation held at the Systems Leadership Council that the medical community should be able to "get its act together now" to provide the appropriate level of supports for people with ID so a separate medical community would not have to be developed to meet their needs. Jamie added that it goes beyond the medical needs and we should be considering all the service needs for individuals. The committee discussed additional challenges of care by the medical/dental committee. Alice Johnson suggested that these services are already established at the facility and that they should continue as the purpose of the new facility. The Commissioner pointed out that this is included in the bullet points and references the RCSC.

Alice Johnson asked if the time lines for the capital projects are the same. The Commissioner shared that ideally that the community residences will come on line sooner.

Pat Bennett asked for someone to explain the difference between bullets #2 and #3. Tim Capaldo offered some explanation of the difference between the two. Pat asked if this would include people with mental health issues. Lee Price provided clarification on bullet #2 being specifically about individuals with behavioral challenges (including dual diagnosis). Mark Diorio added that bullet #2 can be interpreted more about emergency and that the third bullet is for family supports and more planned/regular respite needs. Mark discussed that this service is offered at NVTC but is not available for respite from group homes. Pat shared that this may seem to be striving to be "all things to all people all of the time." Chuck Hall suggested that this draft can guide us, but does not necessarily mean SEVTC in Chesapeake, but can be a regional service. Chuck added that he encourages the advisory committee support the establishment of a trust fund if the current SEVTC land is sold.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

11:30 AM

Queen Jones provided comment that SEVTC needs to be in place for individuals who live there. She indicated that the committee's discussion today provides more questions. She is confused by what the various options are and what is meant by homes that could be established in "poor" neighborhoods. She also was concerned to hear that homes that start as four bed could be increased to six due to the economy. She feels the committee's discussion today didn't inspire and doesn't see how SEVTC can be reduced to 75 when the waiting list is so large. She expressed appreciation for the committee's time.

Joann Packard from "Just People" came to the meeting to support three individuals, Tim, Willie and Warren, who have moved from SEVTC to the community to share their experiences. Tim said he loves living where he lives. Warren talked about where he lives in Chesapeake and that he likes his new home. Willie said that he lives in a safe place and recognized the staff that supports him. He said he likes his team leader and his room mates. All of these individuals are going to a formal event next week and are very excited about getting their tuxedos for the dance.

Steve Johnson from the Endependence Center, which is available to support people who are interested in living independently in a less structured setting. He offered that after all the assessments are completed that he suspects that even less beds are needed for the new SEVTC. He commented that the general public, service providers and individuals are not aware of what options are available and don't consider other options because they are satisfied with what they have. He shared that the sponsored residential service is a tremendous option for people. He is glad to hear the committee have the conversation about language and wording to have a more integration flavor. He commends the committee for its work.

Anne Sivertson has additional questions from family and friends of SEVTC concerning the SIS assessments. Mrs. Sivertson will provide the questions for inclusion in the notes and answers to be posted with the minutes and on the website.

Tom Swason of Chesapeake Services has been working in collaboration with SEVTC for about 20 years. He offered that there is another critical factor for the quality of life for individuals besides where they will live and that is employment and day programming.

Chesapeake Services currently employees about 56 people from SEVTC in its work/day program. Mr. Swanson shared an experience he had where individuals have been able to successfully receive services in the community. He requested that the process for transitioning people to community residences doesn't affect the jobs that these 56 people currently have. He talked about the self-advocacy organization called "PRIDE" (People Residing in Institutions Desiring Employment) and shared testimony from some of its members. He concluded that where people live is critical, but what they do during the day is important, too.

ESTABLISH AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

11:50 AM

- ✓ May 26, 2009
 - *Presentation by OAG on Guardianship (Confirmed)*
 - *Presentation on PPEA Proposal*
- ✓ June 25, 2009
 - *Presentation of big picture results of SIS assessments*
 - *Hearing from individuals/parents who have recently transitioned to the community*

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 ♦ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM