

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**10:00 AM**

Members present: James Reinhard (DMHMRSAS), Lee Price (DMHMRSAS), Lisa Lucas Burke (for Senator Louise Lucas), Julie Stanley (Community Integration), Karen Lawson (DMAS), Mark Diorio (NVTC), David Coe (Colonial CSB), Jennifer Fidura (VNPP), Mark Stevens & Jack Brandt (VOPA), Bill Hawkins (SVTC), Tim Capoldo (Norfolk CSB), Judy Blooms (Family Member), Bob Latimer (Family Member), Sherwin Davis (SEVTC), Brian Whitesell (SEVTC), Bob Shrewsberry (SEVTC), Becky Woodruff (Family Member), Alice Johnson (Family Member), Wanda Barnard-Bailey (City of Chesapeake), Pat Bennett (PAIR), Sandra Cobb (SEVTC Self-Advocate), Roxanne Gardner (SEVTC Self-Advocate), Chip Dodd (Provider), Chuck Hall (HNN CSB)

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS**10:10 AM**

The Commissioner reviewed the status of General Assembly actions being considered by the budget conference committee. The House Appropriations Committee has proposed full restoration of the SEVTC funds for positions and continued operations. The HAC also added new language to use the capital bond funds to develop a 75 bed facility and community housing to be reported on quarterly until construction is complete. The Senate Finance Committee proposed full restoration of funds for continued operations through 6/30/10, with language modified to convene a planning team to develop a plan. There was also inclusion of \$400K for the RCSC. The SFC proposal also included use of capital bond funds to develop community housing including ICFs/MR, group homes, a crisis stabilization unit and day support centers.

Mr. Latimer suggested that because it appears as if there will not be an all out plan to close but rather change focus, the name of the committee be changed. The Commissioner agreed that while it is still uncertain what the final GA outcome will be that the committee name could reflect something about SEVTC's future.

Jennifer Fidura asked if half of the funds suggested for the RCSC would go back to Southside Virginia Training Center, as it was originally intended? The Commissioner indicated that the department would follow up.

UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS:**10:30 AM**

- ◆ **Capital Investment**
- ◆ **Individual Transition & Provider Development**
- ◆ **Workforce Transition**

A document was distributed that summarized activities from the various implementation teams related to the Governor's proposed closure of SEVTC. Lee Price indicated that a team of ID Directors from the CSBs that regularly meets has been expanded to include representation from Human Rights, Licensing, and VOPA to monitor the implementation

of a plan to transition individuals to community homes. This group met and organized a work group that includes that committee and adds parent representatives, private providers, advocacy organizations and others who are knowledgeable of the needs and resources. The meeting of this group will be held on March 9, 2009.

Ms. Woodruff asked who would be attending the meeting. Mr. Price reiterated the attendees and emphasized that different types of providers would be represented.

Ms. Johnson asked what the committee would do. Mr. Price explained that they would be operating under the assumption that we will still need to transition people from SEVTC even though there is not a final decision from the GA. The group will develop a work plan and time table. Ms. Johnson followed up by asking if this committee would be starting from scratch. Mr. Price explained that it would not, but rather would be basing its work on the services currently offered.

Chuck Hall gave a summary of the work of the Capital Investment Team. The group originally met to identify the capital needs anticipated with the closure proposal by using assessments and identified needs of SEVTC residents. This information was used to develop a plan for the region that would include a certain number of beds for ICFs/MR, waiver beds, day support options, and other services. The team has been asked to develop the capital costs and time frame for availability of housing.

Ms. Bennett asked how the cost for services would be determined. Mr. Hall answered that the assessed needs of individuals would determine the number of waiver slots (and thus services). Ms. Bennett followed up with asking if the services are determined by the Waiver. Mr. Hall answered that this is the case.

REVIEW OF "GETTING READY FOR MY NEW HOME" SEVTC TRANSITION HANDBOOK

11:00 AM

The Commissioner explained that the handbook idea originated from discussion and questions at the last meeting from families. Various committee members made the following comments and/or suggestions about the handbook:

- ◆ *Jamie Trosclair indicated that this is a wonderful example of tools that can help people statewide and can be used to support people considering other opportunities.*
- ◆ *Pat Bennett asked that the handbook "spell out" how people get services*
- ◆ *Jennifer Fidura indicated she had shared another version of the handbook with similar material with the department and pointed out that one document will not fit all needs. She further commented that this type of document will help to begin a dialogue and will lead individuals and families to other questions.*
- ◆ *Bob Latimer indicated that from a parent's perspective he has concerns about his daughter with medical and emotional challenges and what will happen if her community caregiver gets sick or dies. He would like this type of question answered in the handbook. Discussion followed from various committee members about how these issues are managed in the community. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the CSB to provide immediate assistance with finding an alternative placement with this type of event. There are a number of agencies, offices, and people involved with each individual working together when something goes wrong. If a provider does close, other providers are asked to step in and help temporarily or to take over. There is a system in place, but there are no guarantees that problems will not occur. When evaluating providers,*

individuals and families should ask what the back-up plan is. To ensure that the system is in place and is approved, individuals and families should get involved locally with their CSB and build upon the momentum and education by talking with legislative members.

- ◆ *Alice Johnson discussed her concerns about providers closing and explained that her daughter does not adjust well to new environments. The committee members discussed that the income for providers is fairly fixed and even more stable than the average business because it relies on SSI and Medicaid. It is pretty rare for providers to go out of business. Other discussion revolved around possible problems that could occur at the facility that could displace people (fire, flood) and that people rally to make it work. All families are encouraged to talk with other families who have experienced community living for their loved ones because lots of creative things can be put in place to address unique needs.*
- ◆ *Pat Bennett brought up discussion from the last meeting about “equal quality of care” and asked who decides what is equal and do people understand the type of care that is provided in a training center. Alice Johnson commented that she had seen the blueprints for a home being proposed by HNN CSB and it is impressive.*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

11:30 AM

The AC heard public comment as follows:

- ◆ *Ann Marie Sivertson would like the questions posed at the last meeting and the follow-up answers to be included with the minutes from January. She also provided a list of eight more questions to be addressed this month. She asked about the cost effectiveness cap for the MR Waiver. Karen Lawson from DMAS described what this meant and indicated that it is no longer an issue for Virginia due to the stimulus funds. Ms. Sivertson also asked if the smaller facility proposed by the HAC will be built at SEVTC. That answer is not known at this time.*
- ◆ *Gene Sivertson asked why people are being asked to look at and observe homes and facilities that have admitted that they cannot provide support to some SEVTC residents. He requested that the committee look at what is required for the long term system of care. He also asked if any thought has been given to what will be done for those people who CANNOT move from SEVTC. He asked if the proposal to close SEVTC came from the Governor or was proposed by the Commissioner to the Governor. Dr. Reinhard responded that thought has been given to people who are difficult to place and commented that many people with similar challenging issues are being served successfully in the community and in other states with no facilities. He responded that the proposal to close SEVTC was part of the budget cut exercise required by the Governor in the fall. Mr. Sivertson also requested that the meetings be advertised to the public.*
- ◆ *Bea Rogers shared various quotes and pieces of information from documents and articles pointing to the idea that people have a choice and the budget should not be balanced on the backs of individuals at SEVTC.*
- ◆ *Chris Kupchek commented that families cannot get answers to their questions and they will not budge until they receive answers.*
- ◆ *Mrs. Gilbert commented that the handbook is too long, too wordy, and is boring. She pointed out that the residents of SEVTC will not be able to read it and it should be shortened. She reported that she has been going to look at places for her son. She asked that better public address equipment be used at the next meeting and that she would like a copy of the minutes. She also commented that she has a high regard for Dr. Shrewsberry.*

- ◆ *Elvin Reid provided additional questions to be answered including the additional repairs needed at SEVTC. She asked if the facility has to be downsized to 75, how those people will be selected. She inquired about why there is such a long waiting list in the community if there are available beds. She also asked if it is advisable to move people to the community if the proposed cost to build homes is so high.*
- ◆ *Angela Watts commented that a staff person from the community had visited SEVTC last week to observe her son and shared that she understands why parents are fighting to keep the facility open.*
- ◆ *Becky Woodruff wanted to know if the language in the proposed General Assembly plans to fast track getting homes open meant that regulations would be cut out. The response to this question is no and that it is intended to just “smooth” the process between state agencies.*
- ◆ *Sharlotte Baughman shared that her sister is a member of the advisory committee and that she has grown a tremendous amount since she moved to SEVTC from Teas. Ms. Baughman commented that she works in the community system and her experience there has been positive. She knows that providers are willing to make accommodations and renovations for individuals and that many who currently live at SEVTC can live in the community. She commented that she feels her sister can grow more and that she could benefit from the positive community programs. She encouraged the department to “look out” for the SEVTC staff to ensure transitions to other community jobs.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2009 ♦ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM