

DBHDS

Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health And
Developmental Services

SEVTC Advisory Committee SUMMARY

**Thursday, September 23, 2010 ♦ 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Gymnasium @ SEVTC
2100 Steppingstone Square, Chesapeake, VA**

Welcome and Introductions

Introduction and Advisory Committee

Timothy Johnson (SEVTC Family Member), Becky Woodruff (SEVTC Family Member), Robert Shrewsbury (SEVTC), Sherwin Davis (SEVTC), Brian Whitesell (SEVTC), Joe Cronin (DBHDS Director of Architecture and Engineering), Chuck Hall, Hampton/Newport News CSB), Bill Butler (DMAS), Tim Capoldo (Norfolk CSB), Chip Dodd (Provider), Jennifer Fidura (Provider), Mark Stevens (VOPA), Roxanne Garner (SEVTC Resident)

Heidi Dix, DBHDS Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Services, opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee and stating the day's agenda. Joe Cronin presented an overview of the progress being made with the construction projects on campus and with the community homes. Public comment followed with closing at 10:50 a.m.

After welcoming the Committee, Heidi Dix, made a special recognition on behalf of the Commissioner. SEVTC Direct Support Staff, Patrese Brown, has been selected in a nation-wide search as the first runner-up to the Irwin Siegel Direct Support Professional Award for 2010. Ms. Brown works in the fifth cluster, and has been at SEVTC for the eleven years. Ms. Dix presented her with a bouquet of flowers, and Ms. Brown received applause and congratulations from the Committee and general public in attendance.

Ms. Dix also recognized Senator Blevins in the audience.

Overview of Construction Projects: On Campus and Community Homes:

On-Campus:

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Mr. Cronin began with a summary of what has been accomplished. The building team consists of the Department of General Services serving as project manager, RRMM, WM Jordan, and Paul Finch & Associates. There will be 15 5-bedroom new homes built on the northeast part of SEVTC property. Each home will look very different on the outside with various roof lines, colors and plantings. Internally, each home will function in a similar manner. We have worked diligently with the staff here to make sure each of these homes will meet the needs of the individuals who live there. We are in the design mode, and have been waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) clearance on the wetlands site. These wetlands are the ditches that were dug when SEVTC was built and make up approximately 1/3 acre. The ACOE has ruled one of these as jurisdictional wetlands. And we have taken steps to mediate this. It usually takes three to six months for the ACOE to make their ruling. We heard yesterday through the Department of the Environment Quality that the ACOE has released the permit. The building team is meeting today to discuss how soon they can get the construction started. It is hoped that work will begin by the middle of October.

All new homes will be LEED certified, and a LEED professional is a part of the building team.

Archive and Architecture Review Board (AARB) has approved the design.

The Virginia Department of Health has approved the water system improvements.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has approved the moving of dirt.

The Department of Environmental Quality has deferred to the City of Chesapeake, and Chesapeake has approved the water and sewage plans.

ACOE has approved our mediation plan for the wetlands.

All drawings for site work for utilities, foundations, and roadways have been approved by the Bureau of Capital Outlay and Management (BCOM). Normally they approve a single permit for the complete construction. However, they have given us two permits – one for all site work so that we can get begin immediately, and a second

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permit for the actual drawings of the construction of the buildings. So we can build up to the top of the foundation under the current permit, while we get the final permit approved by the BCOM.

The final documents and design are complete. Normally these two agencies –A & E Services and BCOM - review the site work and drawings separately; however, on this project both agencies are reviewing at the same time. BCOM has really sped up their work, and we need to send a note of appreciation for their work.

Chinh Vu is unable to be here today due to working on another project. This is a joint effort with the Department of General Services.

Construction should begin in mid-October. We will begin with erosion control, sediment activities, drainage utilities, foundation, and under-slab utilities. This work is scheduled to take 60 days. The next permit will be sought to build the actual structures, roof and exterior. Then work will begin on the interiors, electrical and mechanical finishes. The landscaping and paving will be completed last. September, 2011 is the scheduled completion date, after which the clients will move into their new homes. Then when we receive approval AARB will we be able to demolish the old cottages, and return the site to its original form. There will be a ceremony to commemorate the new homes.

Mr. Cronin stated that WM Jordan has been very responsive. He also thanked Larry Adler (SEVTC) and the direct service staff for their helpfulness in this process.

Community Homes:

We are looking at seven to ten months out for the new homes to be completed. Ninety days is the expected time to transform an existing home.

Virginia Beach CSB will build one waiver and two ICFs. The 1456 Ewell Road property is a gem of a building, in a wonderful neighborhood, has a two-car garage, fenced back yard, and mature landscaping with trees and shrubs. The home has a flushed doorway entrance and four-foot wide corridors that will accommodate wheelchairs. The home's location is close to a park, and a bus stop (transportation

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services). We are waiting on a final agreement from the city. The ICFs will go on land donated by the city.

Norfolk CSB will have two waiver homes, and one ICF. The Hartwick home is near the airport in a nice neighborhood with friendly folks, and a swimming pool in the back yard that will have to be filled in. This home needs to be brought up to ADA standards. The second home is on Bayview Road. The neighborhood is made up of younger couples with children and older people. We continue to look for property for the ICF.

Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck CSB has purchased three lots – one large lot and two smaller lots - in King William County on which to build two new waiver homes. These lots are about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a block apart in a new subdivision. Across the road is a recreation center; and a library, high school, shopping centers, and medical facilities are down the road on Route 360.

Hampton/Newport News CSB plans to build one waiver home and one ICF on land donated by H/NN CSB. The design of the home is the same as the MP/NN CSB home. It is expected to take 60 to 90 days to get the approved permits, and seven months to complete the construction.

Western Tidewater CSB continues looking at sites for waiver homes and ICFs.

Chesapeake CSB is awaiting approval from the City of Chesapeake to use land it already owns for two ICF homes. The funding agreement is close to being completed.

Colonial CSB has identified a site for the ICF, and funding agreement is close to being finalized.

Mr. Cronin is pleased with the progress that has been made, and concluded his presentation.

Question from Chuck Hall asked to revisit the land matter. With the demolition of the old cottages and returning the land to it former condition, the State of Virginia will hold land in the City of Chesapeake. If the land is sold, where does that money go? Mr.

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Cronin stated he had talked with the Head of the Department of Governmental Services who told him that all funds will be put in the DBHDS Trust Fund.

Question from Jennifer Fidura asked if the minutes and presentation would be available to the Committee members. Heidi Dix stated that the presentation was too large to be sent by e-mail. Therefore, it will be posted on the website along with the minutes from the meeting.

Question from Chip Dodd asked how many folks have been moved into the community. Heidi Dix noted that today's census is 132 whereas the census two years ago was 154 which means 22 folks have transitioned to the community. That is about on average two to four discharges per quarter.

Question from Chip Dodd asked if the concept of having some portion of the new center for the RCSC or a short-term stabilization unit is still part of this new construction. Dr. Shrewsberry said the RCSC is an important part of what the new center will be. We anticipate having one home available for emergency admissions, and another home (Steppingstone Cottage) for folks with mental health and ID issues. Also if there are vacancies in other homes, we will use those vacancies as well. Jennifer Fidura stated that she is a member of an CSB Services Developmental Committee that works to find better plans/treatments for crisis stabilization for people with a primary diagnosis of ID and secondary diagnosis of mental health, and that the RCSC is replicating their goals.

Public Comment:

Mr. Sivertson asked if any of the new buildings would be located in Hampton on the site of the former School for the Deaf and Blind. Chuck Hall answered no. His homes would be on Aberdeen Road in Hampton and Deep Creek Road in Newport News. Mr. Sivertson asked for the actual addresses. Mr. Hall will send the addresses to Heidi Dix, who would ensure all parents receive the addresses for all new homes. Mr. Hall also said that he would like for the parents to see these new homes as well as the existing waiver home near the property on Aberdeen Road. Mr. Sivertson asked that the information be sent to him at the PO Box address for the Parents and Friends of SEVTC.

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Mr. Sivertson asked if some properties were being donated by WM Jordan for any of these projects. Heidi Dix stated that WM Jordan does not own any of these properties. WM Jordan has and will continue to purchase property on behalf of the city or under the jurisdiction of the CSB for the waiver homes and ICFs identified in this project.

Mr. Sivertson asked for clarification with Heidi Dix's census numbers. Ms. Dix will review her numbers when she gets back to her office. Mr. Sivertson asked for a copy of her review of the census.

Mr. Sivertson asked a question relative to the property after demolition and the site becomes surplus property. How do we gain access from the new homes through this surplus property to the existing support buildings? Mr. Cronin stated the question presumes a separation, and he does not see a separation. He sees it as single, continuous property. The property will not have a bearer, and people will be able to walk on it.

Mr. Sivertson said regarding the plan to return the site to its "original state", that it used to be a farm. Mr. Cronin stated that it would not be returned to a farm. Original state means taking it all down and the site would return to earth, and grass would cover the ground.

Mr. Sivertson asked if the site becomes surplus property, it becomes wedged between the new homes and the support buildings for ICF/MR. As surplus property/green space, could it be purchased? And if so, how do you maintain access between the new buildings and the support buildings? Mr. Cronin said he understands the concern, and shares that concern. What happens to the surplus property, no determination has been made at this time. Prior to selling the property, we would look at the impact the sale would have on the people who live here make sure that it would not be detrimental to the mission of SEVTC.

Heidi Dix stated that the location of the new homes will not have an impact on the support services.

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Mrs. Jean Beale is a parent of an individual who lives at SEVTC. The parents of SEVTC folks have always been told that their love ones need an ICF. She has been told that there are waiting lists at the community ICFs. Will SEVTC folks be placed on the waiting list for these new community ICFs? Heidi Dix stated that there will be six new waiver homes built or transformed. Although there are waiting lists for waiver homes, SEVTC has been given 30 slots for waiver home placements. There will be 12 new ICFs built in the community and 15 at SEVTC. Across the state there are 32 ICFs, and there are no waiting lists for community ICFs.

Mrs. Elvin Reid is the sister/guardian of an individual who lives at SEVTC. Ms. Queen Jones, sister, spoke on behalf of Mrs. Reid. Her sister needs the quality services provided by an ICF. Why is the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services trying to discharge SEVTC folks to homes and not ICFs?

Mr. Sivertson stated he had been informed that Jennifer Fidura would like to speak with the parents after the Advisory Committee is over. The subject does not concern SEVTC but is a legislature proposal to change the Code of Virginia.

The Advisory Committee will reconvene after the legislature session in March, 2011. If members of the Committee wish to meet prior to that time, please call Ms. Dix.