

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of April 15, 2004
MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached.) President Carol Hawn introduced Dave Redman, Chairman of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB).

Program — Mr. Redman began with an overview of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board, which supplies services, generally through contractors, in the areas of mental health (including both severe, persistent mental illness and acute psychiatric stress), retardation, and substance abuse to Fairfax County, Falls Church, and Fairfax City. There are 40 CSBs in Virginia; this is the largest. Its goal is for clients to lead self-sufficient, productive lives and to move from institutions to the community. Services include prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, and residential care.

The FFC CSB has a \$140 million budget, consisting of 41 percent for services related to retardation, 37 percent mental health, 18 percent substance abuse, and 2 percent infant/toddler development disability. Funding for the FFC CSB is 56 percent from Fairfax County, 10 percent from the state, 21 percent from Medicaid, 7 percent from the federal government, and 4 percent from private insurance.

Mental health services include supported employment, crisis stabilization including hospitalization, psychosocial services including day programs, residential support, and intensive case management. One major concern is that mental-health hospitals are not profitable and are shutting down, so that the number of beds is dropping; he cited Dominion Hospital.

Mental retardation services, handled largely through subcontractors, have a specific number of slots authorized by the state; the CSB is trying for more. Currently, the only time a new client is added to the mental retardation services is when a previous client dies. Medicaid rates for these services are very low, so many subcontractors can't adequately pay staff. Nonprofits are key here.

Substance abuse services are the least funded of the CSB's three areas and are not as well understood by the community. Substance abuse has costs for the community in crime and incarceration, and abusers need treatment to break the habit, although they must want help in order for it to work. Babies born to abusers are an important related issue.

FFC CSB also operates a speakers bureau, for which a brochure was provided.

The state provides grants for so-called PACT teams that provide "assertive community treatment" for mental-health patients, including apartments, treatment, rehabilitation, and support. The area currently has one PACT team and the CSB would like to have two more.

Mr. Redman answered questions on the cost and location of group homes within local neighborhoods; the effect of county and state budget cuts (including to Fastrans); intercounty placement of persons needing hospital beds; and care for the retarded after they leave the school system at age 22.

Business Meeting —

- a. The minutes of the March 25, 2004, Membership Meeting were moved, seconded, and approved as published.

b. President Carol Hawn provided an update on the county budget and her testimony to the Board. While the Board is still awaiting resolution of the state budget, mark-up and approval of the county budget are still scheduled to go forward.

c. George Smith asked about the status of the Federation's recommendations on additional funding sources for transportation. This report has been sent to the Board of Supervisors three times without a response or an acknowledgment of receipt. The most recent transmittal was in November 2003.

d. President Carol Hawn reported that the Board would take up a proposal from the Environment Committee regarding parks planning at its next meeting.

e. George Smith reviewed Transportation issues since January of this year. He reviewed the charter for the Transportation Advisory Commission, noting that the TAC has greatly deviated from the charter in practice and that he has asked for a return to the charter goals. He noted that northern Virginia is estimated to be \$17 billion short in funding for transportation, with another \$1 billion added each year. The county plan states that transportation and land use must be balanced, yet in the past five years there have been only three meetings between the Transportation Advisory Commission and the Planning Commission's Transportation Subcommittee. He also discussed the status of rail to Dulles and lack of open bidding; the progress of the HOT lanes proposal for the Beltway; the use and effectiveness of impact fees in Montgomery County as a possible model; and the lack of funding for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Rather than addressing these larger policy issues, as per its charter, the Transportation Advisory Commission is currently working on a list of "spot improvements," originally to total \$2 million a year, now reduced to \$1 million, and consisting of one improvement per district. These include such projects as adding a warning light or a sidewalk.

f. President Carol Hawn noted that April is the last month that the Federation will pay rent for an office at the Packard Center. She noted that the March balance sheet was available as a hand-out, the Treasurer not being able to attend this evening.

g. President Carol Hawn reminded the meeting that the Citizen of the Year banquet is on April 25, 2004, at the Fairview Park Marriott. The reception is at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner is at 7:30 p.m. The banquet chairman is Sally Ormsby.

Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2004: Emergency Preparedness. Next Board meeting April 22, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Addenda:

FFC CSB FY 2003 annual report and pamphlet

CSB booklet on community services for Virginians with Mental Disabilities

CSB pamphlet on alcohol and drug services

CSB pamphlet on speakers bureau

Charter of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission

Federation balance sheet as of March 31, 2004