

disAbility Law Center of Virginia

PAIMI Council Meeting November 9, 2019

Meeting brought to order 10:02 by Frank Carrillo

Tom Walk, board member, introduces himself by phone as board president.

Group introductions for all who are present. We have new guests

Steve Hornstein

Nicole Durose

Caroline Gendelman

Deborah Dudack-May

Tina Stelling

Brian Parris

Amanda Long

Heidi Campbell

Brandon Cassady

Becka Herbig

Kourtney Wilson

Kathy Carrillo and her daughter, Tarry

Frank Carrillo

Public comment: Kathy Carrillo speaks about a story of family struggle, focusing in a 22-year-old mother of 4. It is her own story of “down wind” of government testing which coated her and other in unwanted radiation. She detailed the plethora of illnesses and diseases, mental and physical, that have plagued her family. There has been no assistance, answers or compensation to her or others.

Steve Hornstein detailed the Harvard Brain Bank work and research.

Tina Snelling shared concern about ECO’s and TDO’s are increasing. She has stressed through her work to law enforcement that the people are being sent to state facilities. It is important to keep people from the hospital whenever possible. She discusses what the” outcomes” look like.

More input from Heidi: concern over TDO’s turning into involuntary into state hospitals and those that cannot be accepted, the TDO turns into an incarceration situation.

Tina shares Heidi’s story. Tina discusses how private facilities can be licensed through DBHDS, but not held to the same standards.

Frank asks for corrections on the meeting notes. Heidi noted a spelling error.

Steve Hornstein discusses volunteers for redesigning mental health facilities.

Minutes are approved at 10:31

Heidi reads out mission statement.

Becka, from dLCV, introduces herself. She shares her family history of illness and the loss of her father. Her sister is detailed with a list of autoimmune disorders. The need of people around her encouraged her to go back and earn an MA in public service and social work after her law degree and career.

She describes objectives related to private mental health facilities and two jails. Riverside Regional Jail, which has had several deaths will be monitored. Roanoke City Jail will be monitored due from a recent death. There is the ability to handle 5 cases of inmates not receiving medication and other concerns. Terry Carrillo described her experience of being abused in the Roanoke City jail.

Catawba is adding “temporary” to handle growth of patients. dLCV will be watching closely.

Steve Hornstein shared his experience of being not allowed sunshine or any proper care.

Heidi verbalizes her concerns in Augusta County and wishing the dLCV to become involved in that area. She is interested in getting the word out about dLCV but is not feeling dLCV support. Becka will work to connect her with dLCV volunteer coordinator. A discussion ensued about dLCV Human Rights posters being visible in jails and other facilities.

Frank Carrillo describes never seeing a dLCV poster in correctional settings. He expresses concern that those incarcerated have no idea of their rights.

Steve Hornstein suggests using those who need to do community service in the Arlington area could be manning tables and working for dLCV.

Tom steps in to reinforce that dLCV is always interested in ways to spread the volunteer necessity to support dLCV.

Becka describes that Western State there is increase in seclusion and restraint. A patient has just passed 1000 days on the extraordinary barriers list. dLCV will stay on the EBL. At a list of over 200, dLCV issues alerts. A discussion followed about the process of discharging someone who is psychologically stable.

Frank Carrillo asks how much dLCV has educated judges on mental health rights and process. Becka describes an annual meeting for judges which does cover mental health and proper procedures.

Heidi details the assembly of a list of appropriate facilities for discharge planning. Some individuals are not willing to choose a facility from the list and this is creating a stalling point.

Brandon describes concern over how much choice do those being discharged really have. He questions the sincerity of facilities in moving the person into the community.

Becka shares that there are staffing issues with over population of facilities. She feels that the hospitals really do wish to move people.

Shelley Mays-Couch is here to speak about her private business, LOC Family Services. It is Christian based, thinking it is Light of Christ; 501C3. It supports those coming out of incarceration and guiding them to re-enter the community and family. It is concentrated in rural Virginia counties. The second chance grant was their first award, won for Prince Albert county. It is currently working in several jails and is moving towards prisons. The offer care management; the goal is to reduce the recidivism rate. The facility will provide a list of those it feels are a medium to high risk of recidivism. LOC uses assessment tools and if the individual fits under grant offering. For example, LOC assists long term correctional residents in acquiring proper identification. It is offering GED classes. LOC has connected with Wells Fargo to teach finance managing and acquire banks cards. She illustrates this through the path of an individual who had served 34 years and had to adapt back into the community from where he had received original charge. She has seen people crumble when released from case management of a CSB. Her goal is to offer the support and skills for a successful path. At the jail level, services are beginning to be provided to women.

Chuck Meire speaks to us. He has a background in international relations and has tracked into advocacy. He wants to bring focus to individuals struggling to get proper identification when coming from incarceration. The real ID difficulty is detailed. Homelessness as a factor of getting any form of identification. The circular problem of acquiring identification is detailed. He has figures for the number of incarcerated people and illustrates the vast difference between number of those incarcerated and those who have been served to receive identification. He is working to build a network of advocates that can drive this to increase proper identification. He describes the reaching problems, social, mental and physical barriers of not having proper identification. Major change he proposes: you can exchange 1/1 you proof of incarceration for a non-real state ID.

SALT (Social Advocacy Linking Together) Is another group with whom he works. He is working on a bill which is gaining momentum to move the identification process forward.

During working lunch Nicole reviewed changes being considered for our packets and shared feedback from the survey the council took after the last meeting.

Nicole described the *Priority Committee*

Finance Committee

Governess Committee

Personnel Committee

There are openings for PAIMI Council members to join and have a further voice in the dLCV organization

The group generally discussed ways PAIMI Council members can be active and involved between meetings. Council expressed angst for suggestions offered as volunteer functions are not getting response or support from dLCV.

We all then discussed what dLCV is looking for from the council. Nicole appreciates the commentary from the council about what we observe in the community and what we find or see in our community.

Consensus that the council itself has to determine what our way of gathering and bringing information and what we want our actions to be.

At 1:30 the team conducted elections. Frank and Tina were running for Chair person. Three votes were for Frank and Tina received 6 votes.

For the spot of vice-chair, Caroline received 7 votes. Colin and Pamela turned in votes for chair and did not turn in pre-votes for vice-chair.

Colleen came to give the litigation report. Colleen reinforces that committees are the best way for council members to be more involved and vocal in dLCV.

Colleen discusses that the best monitoring that dLCV does on state facilities comes from the CHRIS reports. dLCV values the personal reports received from individuals in the facilities.

Due to the representative payee system dLCV will be more visible in the assisted living facilities.

dLCV is beginning to get feedback from juvenile facilities.

dLCV is taking on the more complex social security cases. These are the one that attorneys are not interested in handling. This office requires dLCV to travel.

Colleen discussed the plight of people with dual diagnosis landing in psychiatric facilities. This is deeply concerning to dLCV.

Amicus briefs are being filed by dLCV after reaching out to the involved parties. For example, Fairfax County being addressed about its use of seclusion and restraint. dLCV will look to be involved.

Guardianship cases are of interest to dLCV. It has successfully removed a guardian in a strained situation and working to restore the relationship between the person and the person who was the guardian.

A discussion of competency and bad decisions versus incapable of making a decision ensued. Becka discussed the supported decision making. Colleen discussed the thought process of judges to appoint guardians for fear of retribution for a person's ill-advised or dangerous decisions.

Tina brought up concern over hospital forms used for competency of patients. dLCV will be investigation this.

Colleen is going to be watching the administration view on gun violence v gun ownership. We are encouraged to watch public opinion and litigation on using gun violence to commit individuals.

There is some watch for proposals of supported decision making used instead of whole total guardian. Brandon described DC uses this process as part of a person-centered approach. Virginia is slow to recognize what is known also as circle of support. At least there is some light.

Steve is concerned that the call-in advocate is only available MWF. Colleen points out that that the on-line services.

Tina brought up the conversation to schedule the next group of meeting. Chuck and Brandon were invited to join the council.