

**HPR I START Advisory Council**  
**Minutes**  
**March 4, 2013 (meeting postponed from January 31, 2013)**  
**10 a.m. to noon**  
**Region Ten CSB Conference Room**  
**500 d Lynchburg Road; Charlottesville, VA 22903**

Meeting was called to order by Gail Paysour with welcome and introductions. There were 19 in attendance including: Jim Gillespie (RACSB), Krista Lynch (VCSB), Lonnie O’Baugh (VCSB), John Santoski (Arc of the Piedmont), Barbara Barrett (Arc of the Piedmont), Martha Maltais (RTCSB), Lana Hurt (Arc of VA/Wall Residences), Robert Hurt (Arc), Sheri Sobkowiak (RRCS), Nancy Hopkins-Garris (Pleasant View), Ruth Ewers (RTCSB), Tom Culver (Easter Seals UCP), Martha Gunter (HBH), Debra Early (START), Kristin Gillen (START), Genevieve Brown (Rockbridge CSB), Bob Villa (ODS/VA START), Gail Paysour (HPR I), Jarret Stone (via phone from ESUCP)

Minutes of the October 2012 meeting were distributed and reviewed with no corrections or additions. Ms. Paysour provided copies of the Project Manager’s January Report and START Statewide Implementation Updates. Highlights included:

- Bob Villa’s report of the approval of \$3.8 million to START statewide pending final approval by the state for FY14.
- Easter Seals has been operating all components of START (In-home and facility based-respite, crisis response and comprehensive service evaluations) since their license was granted in late December.
- Five beds are open at the respite facility with high utilization (See HPR I Monthly Report)
- Expanding adult crisis services and creating crisis services for children with ID/DD will be a priority for the coming months.
- Dr. Beasley visited the region at the end of February to provide training in respite and crisis planning.
- Dr. Beasley’s statewide START Quarterly Report for Oct-Dec 2012 (attached) was reviewed by the council with time for questions and discussion

The majority of time was spent reviewing and discussing local data (attached) along with implementation issues and concerns. Several items were discussed including:

- Turnover in staff including the Director’s position has created challenges and delayed progress in regional communication about the program. It is anticipated that a Director will be named by mid-March as several qualified candidates have been interviewed. Easter Seals has been unable to hire a qualified Clinical Director. The START model defines this position as being a full-time licensed clinical psychologist. Council members provided several suggestions including contacting Rob Reeve at UVA to inquire about new clinical psychology graduates and consideration of a part-time or 2 half-time individuals to fill the position. Bob Villa and Jarret Stone noted that the demands of the program and job description are better fulfilled by a full time employee.
- It was noted that the demand for emergency respite beds has been high. This has limited planned respite admissions but Jarret Stone noted that they are hoping that this demand will level out soon, allowing for a better balance between the use of planned versus crisis beds.
- The demand for in-home respite has also been quite high. Krista Lynch and Lonnie O’Baugh noted that Valley CSB was informed at one time that there was no staff available for one of their clients in need of in-home respite. It was noted that the demand for in-home respite has, at times, exceeded the capacity of the HPR I START program and that the program has been able to call on HPR III to assist in meeting the need. Data will continue to be collected to see if the immediate demands represent on-

going trends or if the demand will level off once individuals prone to behavioral crisis are served by the START program and the community develops a greater capacity to respond.

- START is looking to hire additional in-home staff residing throughout the region. The needs in the Fredericksburg and Winchester areas are particularly high. Over 40% of the total referrals come from these two localities. The need for office space in the Winchester area was also noted. Lana Hurt provided a potential resource for this in the Winchester area. Several CSBs have already made office space available to START coordinators.
- The need for each CSB and community providers to receive more detailed information about START referrals, services and admission criteria was noted. Once a new Director is named, it will be a priority to set up START presentations at each of the 8 CSBs to provide additional training and information. Private providers in each of the localities will be invited to attend along with ID Support Coordinators and Emergency Services staff. Bob Villa also noted that he and Ms. Paysour are willing to provide presentations and information as needed. A presentation in the Winchester area is already scheduled for April.
- The issue of the requirement that individuals referred to the START respite facility need to have an identified home to return to was discussed. This presents a placement problem for CSB staff when a provider declines to accept an individual unless START first agrees to take the individual. This issue will require further discussion at the state level along with increased provider familiarity with START.
- It was noted that Easter Seals has not yet begun to bill Medicaid for ID Waiver and MH Crisis services. This will begin within the next month and CSB Support Coordinators should anticipate submissions from ESUCP into the IDOLS system.
- START is providing in-home services to individuals in group home settings. It was emphasized that START staff is there to support the system of care and not to enhance or replace group home staffing. This collaboration has worked well thus far in the region.
- START has begun providing Clinical Education Team meetings. The first was held at Region Ten in February. The next is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jarret Stone is hoping this will be held at Valley CSB. Krista Lynch is looking to reserve space for this meeting. These meetings are detailed case presentations that allow the START clinical team to provide teaching and education about specific issues. These are open meetings and anyone wishing to learn more may attend.
- Jim Gillespie inquired about whether data was being collected on individuals referred to START and whether they are diverted from state hospitals, local in-patient units and training centers. Some of this is collected in the University of New Hampshire SIRS database. Ms. Paysour will work to try to have this data available for future council meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. The next START Advisory Council Meeting will be at Region Ten CSB on April 25, 2013 from 10:00 am until noon.

Respectfully submitted by: Gail Paysour, START Advisory Council Chair