

PUBLIC COMMENT – DANVILLE

Earle Garrett, *Special Justice Attorney*

Mr. Garrett wants SVMHI to remain open because of the longer distance the sheriff would have to transport people for treatment elsewhere. He feels that the staff is competent and caring and the patients receive good treatment here.

Carol Barbour, *SVMHI employee and family member of patient*

Ms Barbour's family member has been greatly helped here and has received good follow-up by the CSB. There has been cooperation and coordination between them. SVMHI is usually at 99-100% of bed capacity.

Robin Crews, *SVMHI employee*

Ms Crews wants SVMHI to remain because of the services it provides to the area and allows patients to be close to family members. It is well structured with growth potential and provides community education and training. It partners with the CSB in discharge placements.

Carroll Foster, *family member of patient at CVTC*

Mr. Foster feels that CVTC is an excellent facility, well managed with trained staff. His brother receives good care and doesn't want him relocated.

Dr. Pravin Patel, *physician at SVMHI*

Dr. Patel said that SVMHI is a progressive facility and fully accredited. It should remain open because being close to family is important and most can't afford a private hospital. He feels that patients receive better care here.

Louise, Ron, and Peter, *members of Harmony House, day support program of Danville Pittsylvania CSB*

These three members spoke in favor of the Harmony House program and its staff for their help and encouragement. They are involved in various programs such as housing, education, jobs, recreation, and transportation. *A copy of Ron's remarks as well as letters from Lorraine D., Vickie P., Ida Singleton, and Anonymous are attached.*

William Garrett, Evelyn Richardson, Mildred Kaufman, William White, Elaine Lupo *Members of Peoples Place, day support program of Colonial CSB*

These individuals spoke in favor of the Peoples Place program in Williamsburg. They want this program to continue, as well as their community support programs, in order for them to live as independently as possible. The program provides a variety of activities and workshops. Peoples Place staff has helped them find housing and jobs and provides support. They feel that this has kept them from being hospitalized. Ms Kaufman, through her art classes there, has begun a part time business selling hand painted cards. *A copy of letters from John and Thomas Leigh are attached to these minutes.*

Beth Parziale, case manager Colonial CSB

Ms Parziale believes that the programs of the CSB are effective and help many people be active participants in the community. Some she mentioned were: crisis intervention, psychosocial day support, case management, and psychiatric services.

Dr. Demars, Medical Director at SVMHI

He feels that SVMHI is well run by professionals. He is upset that the Hammond Commission has no psychiatrist or medical doctor as a member and yet it is charged with studying and recommending changes to the system that deals with individuals suffering from diseases of the brain.

Ed Corcoran, former patient at SVMHI

He feels that SVMHI is a good facility and has made a lot of improvements.

Gwendolyn Edwards, Director, Danville Department of Human Services

Ms Edwards was representing Danville and reported that the city had passed a resolution supporting the continuation of services at SVMHI. The positive relationship between the local governments and the CSB allows for the identification and delivery of services effectively with the limited resources available. *A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.*

Anita Booker, registered nurse at SVMHI

Ms Booker believes that SVMHI has strong leadership, a strong education and training department, and a competent and caring staff. It provides a valuable resource to the city, law enforcement, and hospital ER, and closing it would be a grave disservice to the clients and community.

Sandra Williams, patient at SVMHI

Ms Williams said that she had been in and out of institutions for fourteen years and SVMHI is one of the best ones. She appreciates the freedom to socialize with other patients and staff.

Tanya Dalton, SA consumer

Ms Dalton feels that the Danville Pittsylvania CSB SA program has helped her a lot.

Mary Ann Bergeron, Virginia Association of CSBs

She reported that Virginia has a strong comprehensive program of MH, MR, and SA services, and is the envy of other states because of the partnership with local governments. Local governments make a substantial investment in these services as well as capital investments for facilities and housing. CSBs have close coordination with other agencies such as law enforcement, courts, Social Services, and health departments as well as cooperation with private providers.

Billy Carter, consumer SA program, Danville Pittsylvania CSB

Mr. Carter feels that he would be dead if it weren't for the SA program. It has turned his life around.

Pat Martens, family member and Board of VAMI

Her son has benefited and received positive treatment from SVMHI and the Danville Pittsylvania CSB programs Harmony House and assisted independent living. The CSB is providing support for their efforts in forming a new local self-help group for consumers and family under the state and national AMI.

Jeff Pitman, former patient SVMHI, President of NAMI, Southside CSB member

Mr. Pitman thinks that having consumers or family members on CSBs is a strength, and he believes that SVMHI is the best facility in the system. He feels that needed medicines should be available to patients when they are discharged to the community, as well as more housing options.

Emmett Jones, Supervisor in Carroll County, Human Rights Board SWVTC

Mr. Jones said that when the SWVTC was built, it was a godsend to his family. His son has received wonderful care and treatment from a dedicated staff. The facility is well kept and should be retained.

Warren Martens, Danville AMI

Mr. Martens read statements from Charlotte and Henry Neill and their daughter who is a patient at SVMHI. They want the facility to remain open and are grateful for the services it has provided, as well as those of the CSB, during the many crises they experienced. It has offered hope, and the case manager monitors her progress as she lives independently. *A copy of their comments is attached to these minutes.*

Harold Plaster, Neighbors in Partnership SA Committee, local sheriff

Mr. Plaster said that the sheriff's department did over 100 emergency custody orders last year, where the individual is taken to be evaluated or retained. Eighty percent of calls are substance abuse related. Officers are also responsible for transporting individuals from one facility to another and must deal with all kinds of MH, MR, and SA problems. The SVMHI provides a valuable resource for law enforcement because they know that individuals will be helped here. Most cannot afford to go elsewhere and the bed space needs to be expanded.

Pam Meadows, Registered Nurse and Instructor at SVMHI

Ms Meadows feels that SVMHI provides a valuable service for the community, local agencies, and local governments through their education and training programs. The staff receives on going training and others complete internships and community service requirements here.

Patti Moore, Director Community Relations, Danville Regional Medical Center

Ms Moore thanked the Commission for welcoming participation in the development of a comprehensive plan to offer all providers the opportunity to join together to provide a continuum of care that includes quality, choice, and cost effectiveness. The ability to partner across boundaries, avoid duplication, integrate services, and cross-reference will benefit consumers. The private sector offers expertise in match care and developed criteria for admissions. The SVMHI and CSB case management are vital services for the community.

Emily Jennings, Consortium of Substance Abuse Organizations

Ms Jennings reported on this newly formed Consortium that collaborates the efforts of a number of professional organizations throughout the state to provide SA treatment and prevention. A continuum of care with wrap around services is needed from DOC and facilities to the community. Studies were done in California that show prevention programs work and are cost effective.

Jean Sposeto, Consortium of Substance Abuse Organizations

Ms Sposeto discussed some of the programs that are provided by CSAO: Project Link for pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children affected by SA; Social Setting Detoxification Services for acute SA problems to be monitored and stabilized; Crisis Stabilization Services for serious MI/SA problems; and Transitional Services for temporary community based services after release. Only Capo Center in Newport News offers all three at this time. *A copy of Ms Sposeto's information is attached to these minutes.*

Melinda Chadbourne, MH Director Danville Pittsylvania CSB

Ms Chadbourne discussed some of the programs of her CSB that she feels are effective: intensive inhome children's services for ED and at risk children; psychiatric services; residential; independent living; psychosocial; aftercare pharmacy; and supported work programs.

Warren Madison, SA consumer

Mr. Madison participates in a Danville Pittsylvania CSB SA aftercare program and assisted living program. He feels that he now has choices in his life.

Kenneth Wiggins, Danville Redevelopment Housing Authority

Mr. Wiggins said that his agency has a strong partnership with the CSB and SVMHI in providing assistance finding housing for individuals in outpatient programs. The Housing Authority works with the CSB in other programs such as prevention with people in public housing. The staff provides valuable technical assistance with statistical information needed for grants.

Martha Bryant, President Central Virginia Training Center Family and Friends

Ms Bryant discussed some of the areas that she feels are strengths of CVTC including: appropriate service delivery provider with 24 hour health care, medical and dental care, and lab; its geographic location; on site consultants; and involved family and friends. *A copy of Ms Bryant's information is attached to these minutes.*

Wade Hopkins, Administrator of SVMHI

Mr. Hopkins reported that the day rate at SVMHI is less expensive than the other hospitals in the area. The facility is efficiently run and makes good use of public funds.

Al Newman, Chairman of Board Danville Pittsylvania CSB

Mr. Newman feels that the strengths of the CSB system are that it is locally driven, has consumer and family involvement in policy development, covers all localities in the state, coordinates and contracts with other agencies and private providers, and allows for a multi-jurisdictional approach that pools local dollars and provides a full continuum of services. The Danville area is fortunate to have an inpatient facility within the district.

Van Avery, Executive Director, Danville Pittsylvania Mental Health Association

Ms Avery believes that SVMHI is in a good location to allow frequent family visitation and involvement in the treatment process. The staff is well trained and experienced. SVMHI coordinates with and provides assistance to local agencies as well as Danville Regional Medical Center. *A copy of Ms Avery's remarks are attached to these minutes.*

Kelly Kantz, Director of Community Support, Piedmont CSB

Ms Kantz shared the stories of clients who have been helped to live in the community through support services. She also supports SVMHI and the services it provides in the area.

Anita Gregnol, Co-chair Henrico Parents for Community Based Services

Ms Gregnol believes that the involvement of local government is important. Through the generosity of Henrico County the waiting list for day support employment services was eliminated. She hopes that state funding will be appropriate to not only continue the current services that are working but to improve and expand them. The state should be accessing more available Medicaid waiver funds by state match.

Mickey VanderWalker, President ARC of Virginia

Ms VanderWalker feels that the MR Early Intervention System for toddlers with disabilities and their families is an effective program utilizing family involvement and individualized services. The additional money that would be available from Medicaid match waiver funds would really be helpful in providing services.

Gus Fagan, Executive Director Central Virginia CSB

Mr. Fagan believes that an important area of strength of the current CSB system is the involvement of local government and community accountability. Local governments appoint the CS Boards, and an elected official is a Board member in many localities. Local control provides flexibility in meeting the needs of the community by developing relationships and collaborating with other agencies and private providers. His CSB has a cooperative relationship with CVTC. *A copy of Mr. Fagan's remarks is attached to these minutes.*

Bob Armstrong, parent of consumer

Mr. Armstrong feels that the CSB system of citizen boards responsible to local governments is a strength by allowing each locality to decide what services they need. Another advantage is having a close relationship with other agencies to provide a wider array of services for more clients. *A copy of Mr. Armstrong's remarks is attached to these minutes.*

Sam Tankard, Beach House member

Mr. Tankard believes that Beach House, a psychosocial program of the Virginia Beach CSB, is an effective program and has helped to keep him out of the hospital.

Martha Besigen, Virginia Beach CSB consumer

Ms Besigen is a client of Virginia Beach Comprehensive MH Services. She feels that her case manager, proper medication, group therapy, and day support have provided her with a preferable alternative to hospitalization.

Ken Winburn, parent of consumer

Mr. Winburn's son is a client of the Hampton Newport News CSB and doing well. CSBs and state facilities share the same mission, to provide appropriate care to mentally disabled citizens. CSBs are directed by citizen advocates who have a vested interest in the successful management and coordination of community services. They have demonstrated flexibility in providing services with the limited funds available. Mr. Winburn feels that the legislators have put together a good package and he wants to see it implemented.

June Poe, Board member of VAMI and member of Roanoke Valley AMI

Ms Poe addressed three areas that she believes are strengths: Psychosocial Rehabilitation Clubhouses such as Mountain House; Family Education through Mutual Education Support and Advocacy (MESA) workshops; and the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) which has been funded in six CSBs. Ms Poe feels that PACT is a major answer to how to downsize facilities but must be in place before downsizing begins. *A copy of Ms Poe's remarks and information on MESA and PACT are attached to these minutes.*

Carson Dalton, family of SVMHI patient

Mr. Dalton thinks that SVMHI is one of the best facilities in the state with good staff. His grandson received good care and is doing well.

Gary Coleman, SA consumer

Mr. Coleman is a participant in the Danville Pittsylvania CSB Alternative Youth SA Program. He feels that it has helped him and wants it to continue as well as the other programs of the CSB.

Janie Curtis, parent of consumer

Ms Curtis begged the Committee to recommend that the hospital remain open. Her son was in treatment for SA there and the family came to visit every day. They feel that it was an important factor in his recovery.

Linda Hamlet, parent of SVMHI patient

She believes that her daughter would not be alive today if it weren't for SVMHI. It gives her hope and she wants the Committee to do whatever it can to keep it open.

LETTERS RECEIVED FOR THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION:

Dr. Edward Overman, Director of Dental Services, CVTC and

Dr. Sherry Coker, CVTC staff In support of CVTC Dental Services Proposal

Margaret Downing, President Eastern Shore ARC The Eastern Shore CSB is effective in providing comprehensive, quality services to citizens of the Shore.

Trish Holland, Coordinator of Nursing Services, Colonial CSB In support of the Nursing Services offered within the CSBs

Robert Berry, Aroda, VA In support of retaining CVTC as a centralized complete training center as it was established.

