

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 19, 2002
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO# 31: IMPACT OF LOSS OF SABRE FUNDING (COUNCILMAN SPECK'S REQUEST)

This memo is in response to Councilman Speck's request at the April 8, 2002, Public Hearing for information regarding the impact on Alexandria of the loss of SABRE funding for substance abuse services to juveniles and adults. SABRE (Substance Abuse Reduction Effort), which has been state funded, is a three-dimensional program of enforcement, treatment and prevention that targets drug dealers, as well as casual and chronic drug users. The budget recently passed by the General Assembly did not provide funds for the continuation of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice SABRE program. Alexandria received an allocation of \$153,813 in SABRE funds in FY 2002 in three program elements, as described below.

- 1. The Alexandria Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse (MH/MR/SA) receives SABRE funding of \$75,825 through the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, Court Services Unit, for substance abuse services to juvenile offenders. This funding provides for \$5,527 in operating and administrative expenses and \$70,298 for 1.0 FTE therapist to provide substance abuse treatment for approximately 115 individuals in FY 2002. Services include group drug education (a nine-session, revolving series); relapse prevention groups (once per week for 12 weeks); and intensive outpatient treatment (3 times per week in addition to family and individual counseling). With the loss of SABRE funding, this FTE will be eliminated and these juvenile offenders will not receive substance abuse services.
2. MH/MR/SA also receives SABRE funding in the amount of \$39,448 through Alexandria Criminal Justice Services (ACJS) in the Office of Sheriff for substance abuse services to adults on local probation or under pre-trial supervision. This funding provides for a MH/MR/SA therapist to work on-site at ACJS for 9.5 hours per week providing assessments and treatment. It is estimated that 145 individuals will be assessed and 120 individuals will receive treatment during FY 2002. With the loss of SABRE funding, these individuals will be referred to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse for substance abuse services. Not receiving services on site at ACJS will mean delays in entry into services as well as serious treatment compliance issues.

3. The Virginia Department of Corrections, Adult Probation and Parole Division, is receiving **\$38,540** in SABRE funding during FY 2002. MH/MR/SA receives \$3,540 of this funding to provide substance abuse education classes to adult offenders on probation or parole. It is estimated that 50-60 individuals will participate in this revolving, 8-week education class during FY 2002. With the loss of SABRE funding, these classes will be discontinued. The Adult Probation and Parole Division receives additional SABRE funding in the amount of \$35,000 to provide residential substance abuse treatment to adults on probation or parole. With the loss of SABRE funding the Probation and Parole Division will refer individuals needing residential substance abuse treatment to the Alexandria Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse.

The City of Alexandria will lose a total of \$153,813 in SABRE funding in FY 2003. These monies are currently being used to provide substance abuse education and treatment to juvenile offenders, adults on probation and parole, and adults on local parole or under pre-trial supervision. It should be noted that the FY 2003 Proposed Budget contains a State aid contingent of \$1.5 million to potentially fund, if City Council so chooses, reductions in direct aid to the City from the Commonwealth such as the SABRE program.

Staff: William Claiborn, Director, MH/MR/SA
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