


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR A ONE-TIME BLOCK GRANT AWARD BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR ADULTS

ISSUE: Consideration of application to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) for a one-time Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Award to strengthen treatment services to adults served through the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Residential and Detox programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- 1) Authorize the submission of grant application, not to exceed \$50,000; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On December 5, 2011, the State Commissioner of DBHDS announced the availability of one-time federal substance abuse block grant funds. In order to implement a fair method of allocating the unspent funds, DBHDS announced that “eligible non-profit mental health and substance abuse organizations may apply to DBHDS” no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Funding is limited and must be expended by September 30, 2012.

DCHS proposes to use the funding to provide Motivational Interviewing (MI) training for direct care, front-line staff working in DCHS Residential and Detox programs. MI is a best-practice treatment approach aimed at eliciting behavior change by helping clients explore and resolve ambivalence. It is a collaborative approach that works on facilitating and engaging intrinsic motivation within clients in order to strengthen the client’s own motivation for and commitment to behavior change. The department will use a nationally recognized MI trainer over a series of

at least three five-day sessions to train approximately 60 staff. The grant amount requested will cover the costs of the trainer as well as the overtime costs for the employees' time.

Training direct service staff in Motivational Interviewing is congruent with Objective 1.3 of the Alexandria Community Services Board's (ACSB) approved FY 2012 Strategic Plan: "Continuously implement evidence-based and best practices for all clinical and administrative services."

ACSB will consider approval of the grant submission at its February 2, 2012 meeting. DBHDS will accept the grant application pending ACSB approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: The department is requesting a grant award not to exceed \$50,000. This is a one-time award and no City match is required.

ATTACHMENT:

None.

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager

Michael Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Carol Layer, Director, Center for Adult Services / DCHS