

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 21 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$110,000 TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA'S DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO YOUTH IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA DETENTION CENTER

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application by the Alexandria Community Services Board's (CSB) for grant funds available through the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) in the amount of \$110,000 per year in ongoing funds. No City match is required.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application to DMHMRSAS in the amount of \$110,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: The DMHMRSAS has set-aside \$770,000 for seven Virginia detention centers (\$110,000 each) to provide mental health and substance abuse services in juvenile detention centers. The unmet needs of youth in detention facilities across the country are significant. Recent studies show that 66% of males and 75% of females in juvenile detention facilities meet the diagnostic criteria for one or more psychiatric disorders. Studies show that virtually all (94%) of detained youth used drugs in their lifetime, and the majority ((85%) used drugs in the six month period prior to being detained. Adolescents frequently end up in the juvenile justice system when they really desperately need mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. In detention centers, youth receive minimal to no treatment for these problems. They are released with no behavioral health follow-up and they typically re-offend.

The Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Home (NVJDH) is located in the City of Alexandria and serves the populations of Alexandria, Arlington County, and the City of Falls Church. The Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB), in conjunction with Arlington CSB and Fairfax County/Falls Church CSB, applied for this grant on behalf of the NVJDH to break the cycle and give a future to NVJDH youth.

Currently, the Alexandria CSB has no staff allocated to provide services on-site at the Detention Center. The Arlington CSB currently has one 8 hour/week licensed clinician on-site at the Northern Virginia Detention Center who is able to help some of the Arlington youth in the center.

DISCUSSION: With this funding, the CSB would be able to implement an evidence-based treatment model to help these youth. Youth at the NVJDH would receive assessment, crisis intervention, substance abuse and mental health treatment. Other services may include individualized clinical assessments, short-term family/individual treatment, crisis management, wraparound case management with after-care followup to link and engage the juvenile in needed services, aggressive outreach to parents, parent education and support, and implementation of Lifeskills 95, a curriculum-based Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention best practice model designed to treat high risk chronic offenders by helping them to cope with the problems of everyday life.

The DMHMRSAS requires that the grant proposal program include: 1) one full-time licensed/eligible mental health and substance abuse professional (Therapist III) and 2) one part-time case manager with a bachelor's degree (Therapist I). Receipt of these federal funds would add a total of 1.5 FTEs.

If approved by Council and if awarded by DMHMRSAS, funding would begin July 1, 2006, (contingent on the passing of the Commonwealth's budget).

The Alexandria CSB submitted this grant application to DMHMRSAS in order to meet the deadline of May 19, 2006, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award. The grant application is available for review in the CSB administrative offices at 720 N. St. Asaph Street (703) 838-4455, extension 166.

FISCAL IMPACT: Receipt of up to \$110,000 per year on an ongoing basis beginning in FY 2007. No City match is required.

STAFF:

L. Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, MH/MR/SA
Deborah Warren, DCSW, Director of Child, Family & Prevention Services, MH/MR/SA
Kendel Taylor, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget