


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PREVENTION FUNDING

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) for supplemental prevention funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council

- (1) Authorize the Alexandria Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse to submit a non-competitive grant application for \$3,500 to the State DMHMRSAS for prevention-related purchases; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all of the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** Due to the budget cuts that Community Services Boards are experiencing, Prevention Services in the state Office of Substance Abuse Services has set aside one-time prevention funds for prevention-specific purchases that would augment or enhance prevention services that address risk factors for youth substance use in the communities served. Funding of \$3,500 has been set aside for each of Virginia's community services boards. The grant announcement was released on December 1, 2008. The grant application is due January 16, 2009.

**DISCUSSION:** The grant will provide funding to offset higher than anticipated bus transportation costs for the July 2008 *Kids are Terrific (KAT) Camp*. Since 1986, *KAT Camp* has served over 160 at-risk children in 10 community locations annually. Transportation expenses went up considerably this year and funding is being reallocated in the FY 2010 budget to account for the increased transportation costs.

In addition, the grant will fund stipends for the *Peer Advisor/Counselor Aide Program*. Since 1985, the CSB has successfully employed, trained and supervised at-risk high school students to work with younger at-risk students in the *Peer Advisor/Counselor Aide Program*. Teens work part-time and are paid minimum wage. The Virginia minimum wage has increased over the past few years and the grant will help cover the higher wages. The CSB is making adjustments to the *Peer Advisor/Counselor Aide Program* FY 2010 budget to account for the continued increase in the Virginia minimum wage.

Prior to the grant announcement DMHMRSAS solicited suggestions for use of one-time funds. Based on these suggestions DMHMRSAS included a list of approved funding categories in the grant announcement. Transportation for program participants and part-time staff are included in the approved funding categories.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The grant proposal is for \$3,500 and no City match is required. These are one-time funds and the review process is non-competitive. The funds must be spent by September 30, 2009.

**STAFF:**

Dr. Michael Gilmore, Director, MH/MR/SA  
Deborah Warren, MH/MR/SA  
Tricia Bassing, MH/MR/SA