

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 19, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

ISSUE: Consideration of a renewal grant application from the Alexandria Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse (MH/MR/SA) to the State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for continuation of funding for Alexandria's Crisis Intervention Team Program (CIT).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize City Manager to:

- (1) Submit the grant submission (due April 30, 2010), and, if awarded, accept the one-time award up to \$44,129 to fully implement the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program in Alexandria;
- (2) Affirm that there are no funds available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended; and
- (3) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: Council authorized submission of a grant application by MH/MR/SA to DCJS in April 2009 to implement a CIT program in Alexandria. MH/MR/SA was subsequently awarded a one-year grant of \$48,000 and has since been working with staff from the Alexandria Police Department (APD) and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office to implement the City's CIT program.

CIT programs provide intensive training to patrol officers and deputies in how to intervene effectively with mentally ill persons and how to navigate the mental health treatment system. Successful CIT programs decrease the arrest rate and reported injuries among persons with mental illness, increase referrals of mentally ill persons into the treatment system, and show a decrease in the rate of officer injuries during events.

Over the last year, significant progress has been made towards implementing a CIT program in Alexandria. Accomplishments include:

- Ten officers, deputies and MH/MR/SA staff attended a 40-hour CIT training;
- The CIT Core Group, charged with developing and managing the CIT program, has formed and meets monthly;
- The CIT Advisory Group, charged with providing oversight and direction to the Core Group, has formed and meets quarterly;
- The Alexandria CIT logo has been designed and supplies (shirts and pins) have been purchased;
- A “Quick Tip” guide on mental health issues has been created and will be distributed to every APD officer;
- A brief mental health training has been designed and will be delivered to every APD officer;
- A three-hour training has been designed and will be delivered to every 911 dispatcher;
- A data collection protocol has been designed that will allow CIT data to be tracked;
- The first locally delivered 40-hour CIT course has been designed and trainers confirmed. The first course will occur in Alexandria the week of May 17, 2010.

Continued grant funding is requested for the following purposes:

- Fund four 40-hour CIT courses in Alexandria in FY 2011 (materials, consultant fees, and consultant travel and per diem expenses);
- Conference registration, travel, and lodging fees for the CIT Core Group to attend State and National CIT conferences and meetings;
- Design and printing fees for educational/promotional materials to be used by CIT officers to help educate the community.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant application is for a one-time award in the amount of \$44,129. An in-kind contribution from the City satisfies matching requirements. If MH/MR/SA does not receive the grant award, other non-City funding opportunities will be explored. The grant application will have no affect on City General Fund support for MH/MR/SA or the other departments involved in the program.

STAFF:

L. Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, MH/MR/SA

Earl Cook, Chief of Police

Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff

Liz Wixson, LCSW, Director of Acute Care Services, MH/MR/SA

Jim Fleming, Fiscal Officer III, MH/MR/SA

Kendel Taylor, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget