

Testimony of Bettina Lawton to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
FY 2022 Advertised Budget Hearing
April 15, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman McKay and members of the Board. My name is Bettina Lawton. I am the Hunter Mill District representative to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and its chair. I am here with two of my board colleagues to share why support for the FY 2022 Advertised Budget is critical for those living in the Fairfax-Falls Church area.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year, the CSB provided services to over 20,000 individuals with challenges relating to mental health, substance use disorder and developmental disabilities. This board's support and understanding of the critical services we provide to the most vulnerable in our community is what makes this level of service possible. As work on the FY 2022 budget continues, we ask that you support funding for key CSB initiatives and the additional 15 Full Time Equivalent new staff positions included in the FY 2022 Advertised Budget. This includes 4 FTE new positions to support CSB's utilization management team, 2 FTE new positions to support Diversion First efforts, and 8 FTE new positions to provide support coordination services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

As my colleagues will discuss, those we serve in the community need the proposed budget's investments in programs and services to combat the opioid epidemic, expand the county's Diversion First initiative, and serve individuals with developmental disabilities. The CSB is also committed to strengthening its healthcare business operations, which is why we ask that you support the inclusion of about \$475,000 and four new positions to support CSB's healthcare business operations. As you know, the CSB faces fiscal and administrative challenges presented by the rules of multiple managed care organizations that help pay for CSB services. CSB administrative staff remains focused on maximizing revenue recovery, and the additional positions in the proposed budget will help us meet this critical goal.

As we move into the next fiscal year, the state's new Marcus Alert system will be a critical service change for CSB and county partners. Marcus Alert will provide a set of protocols designed to help those in a mental health and justice-involved crisis and divert them to our behavioral health system. Marcus Alert aligns with the county's existing Diversion First efforts, and CSB currently has staff on the statewide planning group to help write the rules for this new service.

Marcus Alert is a distinct system that should complement the county's ongoing development of a local crisis services continuum and state-mandated mobile crisis services under Commonwealth's System Transformation Excellence and Performance (STEP-VA) initiative.

Currently, we expect to see \$600,000 per region for the Marcus Alert pilots, but as with so many state mandates, no funding is allocated for future years. In addition to meeting the Marcus Alert system protocols once developed, the CSB will continue its work to meet the requirements of STEP-VA. While we support the goals of STEP-VA, here too, there has not been adequate state funding to CSBs for the already initiated steps.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) also remains under the 2012 United States Department of Justice Settlement Agreement (DOJSA). The Commonwealth did not meet the original exit date of July 2021 and recently missed a deadline to submit a new plan and timeline for meeting DOJSA requirements. CSB will continue to monitor how the new timeline and potential DBHDS mandates will impact our CSB.

We greatly appreciate this board's efforts to provide local investment for critical CSB services. However, with new implementation requirements coming down from the state and the historical and continuing issues with inadequate state funding levels, it is critically important we continue to encourage the Virginia General Assembly and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to improve funding of our CSB. Your help on this is essential.

Thank you for your time today. We are grateful for your support and leadership, which allows individuals in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church to access needed services.

**Testimony of Garrett McGuire to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
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Good afternoon. My name is Garrett McGuire, and I am vice chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. My testimony today focuses on FY 2022 funding levels for CSB developmental disabilities services. The CSB and community we serve appreciate your continued support for increased CSB staffing levels. These positions will allow us to better serve people with developmental disabilities in the Fairfax-Falls Church area. This is a critical role carried out by the CSB because when someone with a developmental disability can participate in work and community life, our entire community wins.

We ask that you support the nine (9) new positions included in the FY 2022 Advertised Budget to provide support coordination services to individuals with developmental disabilities. These positions will help the CSB meet the requirements of mandated support coordination services for individuals receiving new Medicaid waivers. With the state working to reduce the number of individuals on the Waiver Waitlist in Priority 1 status, these positions will help with the current caseload and ensure CSB is in compliance with service requirements.

An ongoing challenge for CSB will be dealing with additional mandates from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) as it remains under the 2012 United States Department of Justice Settlement Agreement (DOJSA). The pace and volume of mandates increased significantly during FY 2020 as DBHDS worked to meet the original DOJSA exit date of July 2021. CSB anticipates that this will continue as the state is unable to exit the settlement agreement. New CSB requirements focus on crisis, risk, behavior management and ongoing person-centered, community-based service integration.

Lastly, Individuals with developmental disabilities in the Fairfax-Falls Church faced significant challenges as a result of business closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment and day services were limited because of the public health emergency. These services are partially open and CSB staff are currently working with providers on re-engagement plans. We thank the board for its ongoing commitment to building a system of care that serves individuals in the most integrated setting and provides quality community-based supports for those with complex needs.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for the CSB to share its budget priorities.

**Testimony of Dan Sherrange to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
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Good afternoon, my name is Dan Sherrange, and I am the Sully District representative to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. It is my privilege to be here before you today representing the CSB and our community.

The community we serve is grateful that the county continues to deliver the services and supports from the Opioid Task Force and the Diversion First initiatives. These remain two of the CSB's top priorities. The proposed budget supports the critical importance of these initiatives as we prepare to return to normal operations in FY 2022 from the pandemic-driven operational model. The proposed budget includes two (2) new positions to expand CSB's service capacity for Diversion First and extend our direct clinical and peer support for individuals in crisis.

The funds budgeted for combatting the opioid epidemic will help provide critical peer support services to assist with resource navigation for individuals in need of services and contracted detoxification and residential treatment services. This is of critical importance as we continue to see an increase in the number of opioid overdoses in the region.

While COVID-19 changed the way CSB provided many of its substance use disorder services, resources remained available throughout the pandemic. Through expanded treatment via telehealth and virtual trainings, CSB continued its community-driven treatment and education efforts. In FY 2020, the CSB served over 1,500 individuals dealing with substance use disorder. This includes many with opioid addiction. Additionally, 584 individuals were trained how to handle an overdose situation and administer the drug Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan), which can save the life of someone overdosing on opioids. CSB will continue to identify opportunities to expand its SUD services and is monitoring funding opportunities from pandemic legislation and funds set aside for addiction prevention and treatment as part of Virginia's opioid abatement authority.

The CSB also continues its efforts toward the decriminalization of mental illness through Diversion First. County partnerships between the CSB, court services, law enforcement, fire department and the community are key to the success of this initiative, and we ask that you support the five new positions for Diversion First. The proposed budget includes two new positions for CSB to support direct clinical services with individuals in crisis and successful identification and intervention with individuals in need of diversion from incarceration.

Thank you for your strong support for the individuals we serve and continued partnership.