

Written Testimony of Bettina Lawton to the Fairfax County Human Services Council On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

FY 2020 Advertised Budget
March 29, 2019

On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board, thank you for the opportunity to submit a written response to Fairfax County's FY 2020 Advertised Budget. As vice chair of the CSB, I want to express my gratitude for the continued support of the Human Services Council as the CSB works to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

CSB provides services for people of all ages, throughout our community, who have mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and developmental delays and disabilities. Last year, we served nearly 24,000 people. We greatly appreciate the total increase of \$10 million and the additional 12 Full Time Equivalent staff positions included in the FY 2020 Advertised Budget.

The CSB is pleased to see a proposed budget that reflects the Health and Human Services Resource Plan. This shows the county's continued commitment to addressing critical needs through long-term planning. The CSB remains committed to addressing challenges that have the greatest impact on the individuals and families we serve and on our overall community.

We believe the proposed budget meets the CSB's critical needs for FY 2020. With that in mind, we ask for this Council's support for full funding of CSB's priority areas as presented in the FY 2020 Advertised Budget, including:

- The total \$2.22 million and 12 FTE positions for Diversion First, which will serve as an ongoing investment in a vital countywide program. The CSB's designated portion of \$1.23 million and 6 FTE positions will provide greater support for diversion services at the Merrifield Crisis Response Center.
- The \$2.09 million in designated CSB funding to combat the opioid epidemic. The FY 2020 Advertised Budget will help the CSB increase services in medical detoxification, medication assisted treatment, residential treatment, and other services to opioid users. The CSB is grateful for the county's continued commitment to the multi-agency Opioid Task Force.
- The \$450,000 increase to support Healthy Minds Fairfax. Youth behavioral health remains a priority of the CSB. The Healthy Minds initiative continues to show positive outcomes and ongoing funding is critical.
- The \$320,000 and five new support coordinator positions, which will help the CSB meet the requirements of mandated support coordination services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
- The \$2.47 million for employment and day services for special education graduates. These funds will ensure the CSB can meet the annual increase in the number of special education graduates with developmental disabilities seeking employment and day support services after graduation. The FY 2020 Advertised Budget provides CSB funds to serve the June 2019 high school graduates.

I'd also like to highlight another ongoing area of intense community interest and need: serving the developmental disabilities population in an equitable and sustainable manner. As you may know, throughout 2018, the Welcoming Inclusion Network (WIN) worked to ensure community engagement in the development of options that provide inclusive and holistic employment and day services while also containing costs resulting from the wave of newly eligible individuals. The WIN presented these options to the Board of Supervisors in late 2018. The options provide a cost savings over time while also ensuring continued client choice. The CSB will keep county leaders and the Board of Supervisors fully informed throughout the implementation process.

As the CSB looks beyond FY 2020, we are hopeful that the long-term Health and Human Resource Plan will help guide future funding and service delivery decisions. We are also encouraged by the Affordable Housing Resources Panel recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and offer support as the county works to expand housing options in an equitable manner. The CSB has ongoing concerns with potential fiscal and revenue challenges as related to the reduction in state general funds for Medicaid, dealing with the requirements of six separate managed care organizations and the allocation of state funds for services mandated under the Commonwealth's System Transformation Excellence and Performance (STEP-VA) initiative. We will keep the Human Services Council and Board of Supervisors apprised of these issues.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for the CSB to share its FY 2020 budget priorities. We remain deeply appreciative of the sustained and generous support we receive from Fairfax County.