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Deputy Director

March 13, 2014

Kevin Bell, Chairman
Human Services Council
c/o Department of Administration for Human Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 942
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Dear Mr. Bell:

This letter is to provide written input for your April 1 presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Fairfax County FY 2015 Advertised Budget Plan. On behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), I wish to express our appreciation for your efforts to gather information from community stakeholders and for giving us this opportunity to share our perspective.

The Board of Supervisors has consistently demonstrated strong support, even during difficult budget years, for the critical services the CSB provides in our community. Our CSB Board values and appreciates this partnership, especially now, as our board determines new strategic directions related to leadership, governance, priority populations and ongoing system improvements.

The proposed budget maintains funding for critical CSB programs and includes additional funding of \$3.3 million specifically for the CSB. This includes:

- \$1.3 million for day support and employment services for 74 June 2014 special education graduates who currently do not have a funding source for services.

We are deeply grateful to the County Executive for including this amount in the proposed budget, so that the graduates and their families can make a smooth transition from school to community services without having to be placed on a wait list.

Other additions to the CSB budget relate to countywide provisions, including:

- a 1.29 percent market rate adjustment for all employees,
- employee pay increases for specific job classes identified in the County's benchmark class survey,
- a limited contract rate adjustment for providers of contracted services, and
- computer replacements and vehicle charges.

We appreciate and strongly support the inclusion of this additional funding for the CSB.

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The CSB also strongly supports the County Executive's proposed inclusion of \$1 million and three positions for a system of care approach that addresses the pressing need for earlier interventions with youth and their families as mental health and substance abuse issues emerge. By intervening early, we anticipate seeing better outcomes for our youth and reduced need for crisis response and intensive services.

The FY 2015 proposed budget illustrates the county's continuing commitment to people in our community who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our perspective as you present the concerns of the County's human services system to our elected officials. Please let me know how I can be of further assistance to you in this important task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Garnes", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Ken Garnes
Chair
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board