

LTCCC Testimony to the Board of Supervisors April 6, 2016

Good afternoon Chairman Bulova and members of the Board of Supervisors. My name is Steve Morrison, and I am the Chair of the Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council's (LTCCC) Government Affairs Committee and serve on its Leadership Team. I am here this afternoon representing the Council and the budget positions it adopted.

The Council thanks the County Executive for including funding for older adults and adults with disabilities in the Advertised Budget and that no cuts were proposed in these areas. These services comprise a very small portion of the total budget and provide critical support for these populations. We are also grateful for the County's emphasis on *Positive Living for Older Adults and People with Disabilities* and that it is one of its human service focus areas. The Human Services Council, in its letter to the Board of Supervisors on March 31, 2016, underscored the growing aging demographic in Fairfax County (including individuals with disabilities), and the need for human service transformation work that considers the increasing services demands of this cohort. The LTCCC thanks the Board of Supervisors for its support of community integration models that create neighborhoods for a lifetime and urges the Board to integrate this concept into comprehensive plans. The LTCCC asks you to:

- SUPPORT the Commission on Aging's testimony to consider increasing the asset allowance for the Property Tax Relief Program for older adults and adults with disabilities to ease the financial burden for those on modest fixed incomes and enable them to age-in-place in their own homes.
- SUPPORT the Commission on Aging's testimony for the need for increased funding for respite care to provide needed relief for family caregivers.
- SUPPORT the Disability Services Board's testimony to establish dedicated funding for accessibility and safety improvements in bus stops beyond FY 2016. The LTCCC thanks the Board of Supervisors for having made this a priority in FY 2015 and FY 2016 and for the projects that have been completed. Having bus stops accessible and safe makes it possible for older adults and individuals with disabilities to use fixed route transit systems and potentially reduce the need for use of already overburdened specialized transportation systems.
- SUPPORT the Community Services Board's testimony supporting the inclusion of at least four Support Coordinators in the FY 2017 Advertised Budget. With the new Virginia Medicaid Waiver redesign that will reduce waiting lists and mandate that the CSB provide support for more individuals, additional Support Coordinators will be needed in future years. The LTCCC also supports the CSB's testimony acknowledging this future need.
- REQUEST addition of funds to support an on-line 911 pre-notification system. Council Chair Pat Williams sent you a separate letter of support regarding this program on March 11, 2015 (copy attached). The Council believes that such a program would enhance the ability of first responders to provide appropriate assistance by giving them important information about the caller in advance of their arrival on the scene.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak, and thank you for your continuing support for older adults and individuals with disabilities.