

**HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL / FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (CSB)
PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CSB BUDGET MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT: MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012**

1	Tofie Owen	The speaker's daughter is employed at a sheltered workshop operated by Mt. Vernon-Lee. Day services are very important to the participants and to their families. The employees are committed to work, and the parents are committed to keeping them working. The Human Services Council (HSC) has a choice and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) have a choice and they should choose to support the CSB.
2	Patricia Rogers	The speaker is a provider for the Infant and Toddler Connection (ITC) program. She enjoys working with the ITC and wants to support them tonight because she supports the work that they do.
3	Lisa Arit Escoto, and daughter	She supports early intervention programs provided by the ITC, and was "shocked" to learn that the CSB Budget Management Plan does not include additional funding for the ITC, including funding to reduce the waiting list for services. Referrals to the program have increased 38 percent over the last two years. The services provided by the ITC save up to seven times the money that it costs to operate them. Had her daughter and her family not received the support that they have received through the ITC, she probably would have required more support from the county than what she already receives. In the long run, services provided by the ITC are cost effective.
4	Lynn Ruiz	The speaker is the director of community relations at the Arc of Northern Virginia, which serves developmentally disabled residents of the county. All of the proposed budget cuts in the CSB plan are distressing and will cause the community a lot of anxiety. This is particularly true with delays in access to services. Her daughter has been on a waiting list for Intellectually Disabled services for ten years. She will graduate from a vocational program in 2014. Ms. Ruiz is worried about the future of programs designed to help residents like her daughter find jobs after leaving school. Ms. Ruiz added that her household budget cannot afford private placement services, sometimes costing upward of \$100 per day. She may have to leave her job and stay home with her daughter. The 64 new graduates cannot wait for services; the CSB needs to open every door to find funding.
5	Judith Dittman	The speaker is Executive Director of Alternative House. Services for at-risk and homeless youth remain a priority of the community. Alternative House's Emergency Shelter for Teenagers receives funding from the CSB to provide mental health services who are not in the system. The mental health issues affecting youth and young adults who are homeless and have an insecure future are great. The CSB has been a partner in providing the continuum of service their young people need, but this continuum is being stretched thin. She is concerned about what further cuts will do. The CSB has sustained more than \$15 million in cuts over the past three years. The increasing needs of children and youth come at a time when financial strains and cutbacks bring increased stress to the continuum of care young people in our community need. Please look closely at placing further cuts on the continuum of service for youth, which may result in increased costs in the future.
6	Jeff Byrne	The speaker is with the City of Fairfax's Human Services Committee. He commended the CSB on a well-developed plan and supports the plan to reactivate admissions to the ITC on June 1. The ITC currently serves 1,300 infants and toddlers, 38 of whom live in the City of Fairfax. The first three years are critically important in the development of children. If additional funding is cut, waiting times will only get worse and with children of this age, time is of the essence. Early Intervention works.
7	Mary Agee	Ms. Agee spoke on behalf of a number of Fairfax nonprofit human service organizations who have a vested interest in the success of the CSB and the services that they provide. These organizations depend on the CSB for services in mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, and support. Generally, clients are low-income, frequently homeless, at-risk youth and adults, isolated individuals who have no other options available to them. The entire continuum of services is essential. The community is better off with a strong continuum of services and as a network of private nonprofit organizations we hope to be participate in a solution. The community's quality of life depends upon a strong CSB--just as we do for police, fire and rescue, and other important parts of the fabric of community support. All of our human services, including the CSB, stand for creating opportunities for everyone in the community, regardless of their circumstances, their economic status, or their particular challenges.
8	Debra Tinker	The speaker uses the CSB's intellectual disability services for their son. Their family moved to Fairfax County because of the county's reputation for providing quality and comprehensive services. They were assured that their son would enter specific programs once he graduated from the FCPS, but the Medicaid Waiver program would not approve those services for him. And now, there is a chance that funding for day support programs will be cut. She urged the county not to cut funding for services.
9	Susan Yu	The speaker is an employee of the county's Fire and Rescue Department. Her brother uses day services arranged by the CSB through Mt. Vernon-Lee. If these services are not funded, her brother will stay home during the day. She urged funding be approved for community-based needs programs.
10	Pam and Colin Westfield	The speaker's son Colin is a 17-year old at-risk child for substance abuse. He attended Compass Day Center, and has been sober for nine months. He will now attend Chantilly High School. County-funded substance abuse services funded through the CSB are very important, and have helped turn around her son's life.
11	Tracy Shipplett	The speaker is director and owner of Therapy4Kids, which has been working with the ITC for ten years. They know first hand of the benefits of the ITC. Early Intervention services are strong, but now there are 200 persons on a waiting list for services--a waiting list that has only been in existence for a short time. She is concerned because the state has increased eligibility requirements, and placing babies on waiting lists for services is a huge detriment for their development. If this trend continues, there will be a significant cost in the future. There are other options in the private sector, but the ITC program is different and it works. Private services often have waiting lists of six-to-nine months. Parents going to the private clinics have to pay significantly more and not getting the quality of services provided through the ITC.

12	Michael Ritz	The speaker is a product of New Beginnings and Chantilly Detox. The transition period from detox to New Beginnings is crucial to success. These facilities and the model they use are only available in Fairfax at these sites. Alexandria and Arlington have similar programs, but Fairfax has only one. For individuals to be successful in these programs, one must be able to participate in the medical and nonsocial components. He urged not closing the sites or changing the model. (Lynne Cramer from the CSB explained to the audience that the CSB no longer is considering closing the detox facility.)
13	Debbie Robinson	She is a successful graduate of the Chantilly detox facility. This facility, as well as New Beginnings and Crossroads, attract people from all over the county. They cannot be closed without adversely impacting the community.
14	Nathalie Ford	Budget situations such as this are hurtful to people's lives. Any required funding reductions should be minimal. All the participants ask for is a purpose to live. He was given that, and is now a successful member of society.
15	Carmel Commendador	The speaker urged continued funding for CrisisLink. Many of their callers are in crisis and considering suicide. CrisisLink receives a lot of calls that require a careful deescalation. CrisisLink is a part of the county's safety net, and relies on significant participation of trained volunteers. Between July 1, 2011 and May 30, 2012, 3,600 people were assisted by CrisisLink.
16	Susan Lambert	Her daughter is an employee of ServiceSource. The speaker urged that funding be continued to support persons who are currently employed by organizations such as ServiceSource. She supports a tax increase next year to continue CSB programs. (She also mentioned that Montgomery County implemented a tax on wine this year, as an example of raising revenue.)
17	Pat Hannaky	The speaker's children are graduates of the Davis Center. She hopes that future graduates will be able to get the post-graduate support that her children did.
18	Laura (couldn't capture last name)	The speaker urged continued funding for CrisisLink. Many of their callers are in crisis and considering suicide. Resources are limited, and the topic of suicide is unpleasant for many. The Woodburn Mental Health Center wanted her to wait two days to be seen, but in emergency situations one cannot wait two days. CrisisLink bridges that gap. As a recipient of services and as a volunteer, she urged continued funding support for CrisisLink.
19	Brian Eberly	He is a volunteer at CrisisLink and commented that the county needs to continue funding support through the CSB for CrisisLink.