



Fairfax County, Virginia

LINES OF BUSINESS

March 2017

SYSTEMS OF CARE/CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT

*County Lines of Business (LOBs)- Phase 2
Presentation to the Board of Supervisors*





OVERVIEW

- **Project:**

- Develop options for redesigning the Systems of Care/Children's Services Act funding to incentivize both County and FCPS efficiencies in placement.

- **Workgroup:**

- Current workgroup includes County staff from the Department of Family Services, Department of Administration for Human Services, Department of Management and Budget and Office of the County Executive.
 - Staff are reviewing the challenges currently faced by the Children's Services Act.
- Future workgroup will include County staff as well as staff from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

- **Timeline:**

- Completion target date TBD.





OVERVIEW

- **System of Care (SOC):**

- Coordinates the full continuum of behavioral health services across multiple County agencies, FCPS and private providers for children and youth who are not CSA or CSB-eligible but have significant behavioral health issues.
- Board of Supervisors approved the first year of a multi-year funding plan in FY 2015.
- Annual budget of \$1.1 million.

- **Children's Services Act (CSA):**

- Enacted by the state in 1993 to create a collaborative system of services and funding for at-risk youth with serious behavioral health issues.
- Local multidisciplinary teams plan and oversee services for youth.
- Mandated program based on defined eligibility criteria with costs shared by the state and County.
- Annual budget of \$44.0 million.





CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)

• Who is eligible for CSA services:

- Children and youth with intensive emotional/behavioral needs and high-risk behavior.
 - Determined by the County multidisciplinary team or by the Court
- Children and youth who are eligible for foster care services.
- Children and youth who are eligible for special education services and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicating placement in a private day school or residential program.
 - Determined by Fairfax County Public Schools school-based team





CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)

• Who pays for CSA services:

- The state and County share the costs of CSA services:
 - The state has structured the cost sharing to encourage the delivery of services in the least restrictive environment while preserving families, responding to the unique needs of the individual and maintaining the safety of the public.
- The current match rates are as follows:
 - **Base Rate:** The state share is 53.89 percent and the County share is 46.11 percent. Services provided to children receiving IEP-related services and children in foster care are reimbursed at this rate.
 - **Community-Based Services Rate:** The state share is 76.94 percent and the County share is 23.06 percent. Services provided to youth in the community.
 - **Residential Services Rate:** The state share is 42.36 percent and the County share is 57.64 percent. Services provided to youth in a residential setting.
- There is also a requirement for parents/guardians to contribute financially to the cost of services, except when prohibited by law, based on their ability to pay. This offsets the County costs by approximately \$0.3 million.





CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)

- **Successful Cost Containment Strategies:**
 - CSA staff and the partner agencies (Department of Family Services, Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and the Fairfax County Public Schools) developed strategies and implemented new policies and procedures in an effort to contain costs and support the Systems of Care work beginning in October 2008.
 - As a result of these efforts, more than \$2.0 million in budget reductions has been taken since FY 2010 without adversely impacting service delivery.
 - However, in recent years, there has been an increase in CSA expenditures and it is not anticipated that existing policies and procedures are enough to contain costs.





CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)

• Current challenges:

- The number of youth receiving services continues to increase.
 - A total of 1,494 youth were served in FY 2016; this was an increase of 151 youth, or 11.2 percent, from FY 2015.
- Changes in state policy effective July 1, 2017 may lead to a significant increase in costs:
 - This policy change may increase the number of children served in residential treatment services. Children served in residential treatment services are the most costly in the CSA program, thus this could have a significant impact on CSA expenditures.
- State budget includes language to examine the options and determine the actions necessary to better manage the quality and costs of private day educational programs currently funded through CSA.
 - A report on preliminary findings and recommendations is due by November 1, 2017.
 - It is expected that recommendations will be included in the 2018-2020 biennial budget.





CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)

• Next Steps:

- Staff will continue reviewing data to determine the factors driving the increase in the number of CSA youth served. County staff will engage FCPS staff in this discussion.
- However, until the state determines how the quality and costs of private day educational programs currently funded through CSA are going to be managed, local redesign efforts may be premature.
- Staff recommends monitoring the state workgroup and participating, both County and FCPS personnel, in the workgroup as requested.
- Once the state workgroup issues preliminary findings and recommendations, staff will determine the potential impact and appropriate next steps.





DISCUSSION

