

Response to Questions on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: What is the status of the Community Health Safety Net? Who will be at the table and how was that decided?

Response:

On January 8, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to create the Fairfax County Safety Net Health Center Commission (whose authority is outlined by the Virginia Hospital or Health Center Commissions Act, as amended). The charge of this Commission includes:

- Strengthen safety net infrastructure to support enhanced access and quality of care;
- Expand medical education clinical training experiences to extend patient care resources and support development of new health care providers for this region;
- Optimize operating costs and flexibility to assure maximum value for each local dollar invested in safety net health care;
- Diversify and increase financial support to assure long term sustainability of the system; and,
- Expand community provider support to create additional sites of care for safety net patients.

To assure the highest level of accountability to Fairfax County and the overall effectiveness of the safety net system, the Commission is comprised of five members: the County Executive, Deputy County Executive (Human Services), Deputy County Executive (Chief Financial Officer), Director of Health, and Director of Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Since its formation, the Commission has met once and is working to draft its charter that will further define how to meet the charges outlined above, including the process that will be used to gather stakeholder and community input.

Although there are two primary parties – Fairfax County Government and Inova – that predominantly invest in and operate the current health safety net, the success of restructuring the Health Safety Net is incumbent upon ensuring that community stakeholders are engaged in the process. As recommended by the Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB), they (HCAB) as well as other community stakeholders will be involved in a review and input process as the work of the Commission moves forward.