

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Hudgins

Question: Provide a description of the five drop-in centers that are consumer driven and the amount of funding they receive from the County.

Response: Drop-in centers provide empowerment and recovery-oriented services for persons with mental illness. Drop-in centers include facilities for showering, shaving, napping, laundering clothes, making necessary telephone calls or attending to other personal needs; and other basic supportive services. Some centers also provide food or facilities for cooking.

In FY 2008, the County provided funding to five consumer-driven drop-in centers through the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB): Reston Drop-In Center Inc., Consumer Wellness Center of Falls Church (CWC), On Our Own of Fairfax County Inc. (OOOFxCo), the Laurie Mitchell Employment Center (LMEC) on Edsall Road and the Laurie Mitchell Employment Center (LMEC) on Sacramento Drive. The centers follow the basic tenets of recovery, with focus on the following: peer support, consumer empowerment, independence from traditional mental health systems, grass roots advocacy, employment, volunteerism, and focus on natural supports within the community. Each center offers social, recreational, and educational experiences that offer individuals the opportunity to improve and enhance their lives. The centers also offer opportunities to develop responsibility and self worth. All of the centers rely heavily upon volunteers to sustain their programs and services.

The Reston Drop-in Center (1820 Faraday Drive, Reston), is open six days a week (Monday and Friday, 10am-8pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-2:30pm and Saturday, 12-5pm), and serves an average of 10-15 clients/day. The center provides access to personal computers, a television room and board games, and offers exercise and art groups as well as free cold lunch to clients. In FY 2008, the County awarded a contract to the Reston Center (valid from November 26, 2007-November 25, 2008 with three one-year renewal options) for \$4,460/month for annualized funding of \$53,520.

The Consumer Wellness Center of Falls Church (6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church), is open five days a week (Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm), and serves an average of 12-30 clients/day. During the winter months, the center extended its hours to serve hypothermia consumers. A large number of those served by the center are homeless and come from Bailey's Shelter. In FY 2008, the County awarded a contract to CWC (valid from November 26, 2007-November 25, 2008 with three one-year renewal options) for \$6,690/month for annualized funding of \$80,280.

On Our Own of Fairfax County, Inc. (8794-S Sacramento Drive, Alexandria), is open three days a week (Thursday 3-7pm and Saturday-Sunday 1-7pm), and serves an average of 16-43 clients/day. A large number of those served by the center are homeless and come from either the Kennedy Shelter or the wooded area south of the shelter in the Richmond Highway area. In FY 2008, the County awarded a contract to OOOFxCo

(valid from November 26, 2007-November 25, 2008 with three one-year renewal options) for \$6,690/month for annualized funding of \$80,280.

The Laurie Mitchell Employment Center (6295 Edsall Road #175 and 8794 South Sacramento Drive, Alexandria) is a consumer-driven drop-in and employment center. There are two LMECs in Northern Virginia and the operating hours are: LMEC on Edsall Road (Monday through Thursday 5-9pm and Saturday 10am-3pm) and LMEC on Sacramento Drive (Monday and Wednesday 2-7pm). The two centers collectively serve 400 people a year through on-site services and 100 additional consumers through off-site presentations and programs. LMEC provides services to adults with mental illness including: computer training, pre-employment internships, employment search and placement assistance, one-on-one consultations, application and resume writing guidance, employment seminars, educational workshops, mental health recovery support, networking opportunities, job fairs, and office skills education for the 21st century. In FY 2008, the CSB provided funding of \$7,000 to LMEC for transportation services and part-time staffing needs for computer training.