

Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Given the gap in the current number of domestic violence beds, what are plans to accommodate additional requirements?

Response: In FY 2007, the County began contracting the day-to-day operations of Artemis House to a non-profit entity in order to create a stronger partnership with the community in growing the County's capacity to meet the increasing needs of individuals and families that experience domestic violence. Our expectation is that Shelter House (the current contract holder) will leverage resources in order to add to the number of beds (currently 34) at Artemis House. Not only is the number of beds an issue, the location of the shelter is as well. Artemis House is located in one area of the County that is difficult to access from the other end of the County. Because of these two issues, the County is working to add two Domestic Violence units to another housing program in a new location, and the Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence is discussing a possible partnership with the Park Authority to utilize one or more of their housing units as a potential extension to Artemis House. Along with these efforts, there will be a renewed strategic planning effort with County and community participation in order to discuss and plan future programming and services.