

Response to Questions on the FY 2015 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Smyth

Question: Please provide additional information on Behavioral Health Services including the staffing plan and operational strategies that the proposed new funding will support.

Response: Behavioral health services for youth and families are being expanded as a result of the recommendations presented to the Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2013. These recommendations were the direct result of the guidance included by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY 2014 Adopted Budget Plan directing staff to identify requirements to address youth behavioral human services requirements in schools and the broader community. An Interagency Youth Behavioral Health Services Work Group, with representatives from County human services departments, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, was convened to identify the array of youth services currently being provided as well as services that are necessary to address the most pressing needs in the community. It is estimated that between 400 and 500 youth and their families are in need of interventions and services for emerging mental health or substance use issues. FY 2015 funding includes \$1.0 million and 3/3.0 FTE positions (1/1.0 FTE Division Director, 1/1.0 FTE Program Manager and 1/1.0 FTE MH/ID/ADS Senior Clinician) and will create a new program unit which will implement a Systems of Care model by connecting the continuum of supports and services across County agencies, FCPS and community partners. The new unit will develop new policies and procedures on providing care coordination and service delivery, as well as oversight, to the various entities delivering services along the continuum. Additionally, the new unit will be responsible for implementing contractual services for individuals with emerging mental health and substance use issues. The Interagency Youth Behavioral Health Services Work Group will continue its work and make final recommendations by May 2014 focusing on developing protocols to ensure effective cross-system coordination of services. Work will also be done on how to track system performance measures and outcomes. This is year one of a multi-year plan; therefore, once fully implemented, it is anticipated that \$1.2 million will be available for contractual services for individuals with emerging mental health and substance use issues.