

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: If the Health Department's Clinic Room Aide Program reduction is accepted who would take responsibility for the program? Identify costs (proposed reduction #3).

Response: If the proposed reduction were accepted, the Health Department has proposed the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) assume responsibility for the duties currently performed by the Clinic Room Aides (CRA's). There are a number of service models available to the FCPS including but not limited to: hiring of trained personnel to replace CRAs, subcontracting with the Health Department for some of the duties performed by the CRA's and/or assignment of CRA duties to existing FCPS personnel (e.g. primarily front office staff responding to students who are sick or injured). Other options that have been discussed but will need further research are using existing school staff or volunteers to take on the CRA duties. Although having medical personnel on-site at schools is not a state mandate, the Health Department would work closely with FCPS in the transition of the CRA program to ensure the provision of care to sick and injured children.

It should be noted that the proposed elimination of the Health Department's Clinic Room Aide Program will not eliminate the agency's use of school Public Health Nurses (PHN's). The school PHN's primary focus is to ensure that a student with a health condition is identified and to put a plan in place to meet that students need. The roles and responsibilities of the PHN also include: identifying medical and health issues, screening and follow ups; providing training for CRA's, school administrative and teaching staff on specific health issues and procedures; teaching health related topics to school community; maintaining and providing school health program reports to school system; responding to health emergencies in the school setting and acting as a consultant to school staff on issues of health, health promotion, communicable disease, and immunizations, etc. The Health Department currently has 55 Public Health Nurse positions with four to five schools assigned to each nurse.

In the absence of the CRA, the PHN would continue to focus on the duties outlined above, but would no longer provide supervision, training and/or orientation to CRA's. As now, the school PHN also would not be able to provide care to sick and injured students in the school setting on a day to day basis.

The Health Department currently employs 192 CRA's at a cost of \$4,498,135, as detailed below.

CRA Salary:	\$4,498,135
Program Oversight	
Position: Salary and fringe:	\$ 99,941
Orientation*:	\$ 86,400
Training*:	<u>\$ 62,650</u>
Total:	\$4,747,126

*costs currently absorbed by Health Department staff but will be an added cost to FCPS.