

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: What is the purpose of having a Department of Administration for Human Services and a Department of Systems Management for Human Services? Could savings be realized through a consolidation of these Departments?

Response: The purposes of the two Departments, while both supporting the Human Services agencies within the County, are quite distinct.

The Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS) was created in FY 1995 by consolidating administrative positions from program agencies into the new centralized agency to attain efficiencies by deploying a centralized group of staff to agencies with related missions and business models. The four business areas centralized in DAHS are **Financial Management, Human Resources, Contracts Management** and **Physical Resources** and they provide the primary support for these administrative functions to the agencies delivering Human Services. As a result of the complexity and size of the Human Service these business areas: prepare and monitor human services' budgets with expenditures totaling more than \$450 million; manage more than 60 grants; collect revenues from the state and federal governments, clients, third-party payers, local jurisdictions, and other organizations that are anticipated to offset County expenditures by more than \$170 million; support human resource activities for more than 4,000 merit human services employees; develop and administer 1,200 contractual agreements totaling approximately \$143 million with public and private providers for delivery of human services programs; and oversee 373 facilities including 120 office and services sites and 253 residential program sites serving consumers throughout the County.

Similarly designed to offer support to the broad spectrum of Human Service agencies, the Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS) engages and connects individuals, communities, and organizations, building upon their collective strengths and developing creative solutions to enhance the quality of life in Fairfax County. The focus of the organization is to cultivating a vibrant, engaged Fairfax County community, with resourceful, collaborative organizations, accessible, responsive public service, and healthy, thriving people. Together with County agencies and community organizations, the Department makes connections and builds relationships, coordinates access to resources and information, produces and provides data to guide decision-making, builds capacity, fosters collaboration, and facilitates continuous improvement. The four primary components of this work with the community includes **Coordinated Services Planning** (the County's 222 #) which provides centralized access to services and resources; the **Countywide Coordinators** who facilitate and manage the efforts of multi-agency collaborative initiatives like domestic violence, prevention and interfaith activities; **Regional Directors and Community Developers** who bring together individuals, communities, and organizations to improve the quality, capacity, and integration of human services; and **Research, Analysis, and Project Services** which facilitates system-wide service delivery coordination and improvement efforts and demographic services.

Currently staff is working on possible consolidation opportunities for potential inclusion in the FY 2011 budget. One opportunity involves the Department of Systems Management for Human Services and the Department of Community and Recreation Services to identify those areas of work in the community where consolidation is possible and efficiencies may be generated.

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