

Testimony to the Board of Supervisors - FY 2019 Advertised Budget

Suzette Kern, Chair CSB Board

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

April 11, 2018

I'm Suzette Kern, Chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB Board. Last year, the CSB served over 23,000 people in our community with mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental delays and disabilities. We are able to reach so many people because of the local funding we receive and we thank you for your strong commitment to the many among us with these challenges.

We greatly appreciate the \$3.3m and 22 positions included in the 2019 Advertised Budget for Diversion First, mandated support coordination services for individuals with developmental disabilities, and combatting the opioid epidemic. These three areas remain among our critical priority areas. The Advertised Budget meets the CSB's critical needs for FY 2019 and we are asking for your support for CSB funding as presented in the Advertised Budget. My colleagues Bettina Lawson and Jennifer Adeli will follow me and address each of these three areas in detail.

We share the County Executive's concern for the fiscal challenges the county faces beyond FY 2019. We fully anticipate that Diversion First, the opioid crisis and serving our DD population in an equitable and sustainable manner will remain priorities into the future. With my time today, I'd like to provide a broad overview of some other CSB critical funding priorities for FY 2020 and beyond.

One such area is implementing 9 core behavioral health services mandated by the State's STEP-VA plan. Two of the nine services must be implemented in FY 2020 and the remainder in FY 2022. Thanks to your generous local support we already provide most of these services. However, the challenge will be to address and fund the State's added, specific clinical requirements, which include timelines for access to care, for each of the 9 services. For example, the State recently informed us that for the two services to be implemented in FY 2020 - same day access to care and primary healthcare screening - we are likely to receive \$270,000. We anticipate the cost to implement these two mandated services will far exceed this level of support from the State.

We'll need to meet the challenges of the new state managed care program which was implemented in our region in December 2017. In response to new guidelines and standards, the CSB must revise their business and clinical processes and these changes will take an increased investment for our business staff. We anticipate that this will be an ongoing investment, as managed care has become part of the regular landscape in behavioral healthcare.

We need to fulfill our critical need for permanent affordable housing. Many of the individuals served by the CSB receive a fixed disability income. For obvious reasons, treatment and recovery can be a real challenge to those without permanent housing.

Youth behavioral healthcare remains a priority. Services such as crisis text, online youth suicide prevention training, and Healthy Minds Fairfax continue to show positive outcomes for youth with behavioral healthcare needs. In order to sustain these improvements your continued support is needed.

Here is a compelling statistic to support the need for better integrated healthcare. Consistent with national research, CSB clients die on average 20-25 years before the general population, from preventable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. With some grant funding of our Be Well program, we've had some impressive, measurable health results. However, this funding ends in September 2019. The CSB will need to find a way to continue and expand the Be Well model in more CSB locations.

Thank you for your time and as always, we're deeply grateful your leadership as you make these difficult budget decisions.

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Bettina Lawton, Vice-Chair CSB Board
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
April 11, 2018

Good afternoon, I am Bettina Lawton, Vice-Chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. I am here with my colleagues, Suzette Kern and Jennifer Adeli, to thank you for your support and to offer our perspective on the FY 2019 Advertised Budget.

Thanks to your continued funding and support, clear progress is being made in several of the CSB's critical focus areas but I will specifically address two of them: the opioid crisis and the Diversion First effort.

Over the last five years, the CSB has seen a 22% increase in reported use of opioids including heroin, non-prescription methadone, and prescription opioids. Our public safety partners reported increases in heroin overdoses over the last several years, with the total heroin EMS patient population doubling between 2013 and 2016.

To respond to this crisis, a multi-agency county-wide effort was created and has developed a plan to aggressively move forward with action-oriented solutions. As a partner in the effort, the CSB is providing coordinated strategies that incorporate opioid prevention, treatment and education.

We ask for your support so that the CSB will be able to:

- Expand addiction services, such as medication assisted treatment (MAT).
- Continue to implement strategies that enable individuals to access programs more quickly and shorten the time to treatment. (The CSB is now beginning to see a reduction in residential wait times).
- Expand its peer assistance program. People who are now living in recovery will provide community outreach and engagement services to individuals who have overdosed.

The second priority is continuing efforts toward decriminalization of mental illness through Diversion First; which has made great strides since Fairfax County joined the Stepping Up Initiative in 2015. The Diversion First effort would not work without key partnerships between CSB, court services, law enforcement, the fire department and the community.

Allow me to highlight a few examples of our success.

As of this year, police officers and sheriff deputies are now on duty 24/7 at the CSB's Merrifield Crisis Response Center (MCRC). Since the start of Diversion First, over 3,500 individuals who may have otherwise been transported to jail, were seen at the MCRC for mental health evaluations.

To continue the success of Diversion First, we ask your support for the following:

- 8 full time CSB positions to strengthen Behavioral Health services in the courts and jail diversion
- More housing supports and services for homeless individuals
- Implementation of a third mobile crisis unit

Thank you for your strong support of the CSB's efforts to combat the opioid crisis and further the County's overall diversion efforts.

Testimony to the Board of Supervisors – FY 2019 Budget
Jennifer Adeli, Board Member
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
April 11, 2018

Good afternoon, I am Jennifer Adeli, Member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. I am here with my Board colleagues, Suzette Kern and Bettina Lawton, to thank you for your support and to offer our perspective on the FY 2019 Advertised Budget.

CSB helps people of all ages who have mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and developmental delays and disabilities. Last year, we served over 22,000 residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

We appreciate the strong support CSB receives from the Board of Supervisors and County leaders for all the critical roles carried out by the CSB but today, in particular, I want to express our appreciation for your continued support of CSB staff that serve people with developmental (and intellectual) disabilities.

Our services have a far-reaching, positive impact. When someone with developmental disabilities is able to participate in work and community life, the whole community wins.

Traditionally, individuals with intellectual disabilities only received day and employment services if they were funded by a federal/state Medicaid waiver. These waivers enable people to receive community-based services. However, there is a great need for these services and the CSB uses local dollars to work with vendors to provide services for residents with disabilities who do not have waivers. These local dollars make meaningful employment programs and day services possible for hundreds of families. Last year, the state mandated that the programs be provided for an increasing number of people, including those with developmental disabilities, such as people with autism. In an effort to seek new ways to provide high quality services, design a new system that would ensure equity and efficiency, and to explore new models and increased opportunities, CSB staff turned to the community for answers.

The CSB held an extensive series of community forums in the summer of 2017. These sessions created an online idea bank and held three well-attended community resource workshops in various parts of the County. With enthusiastic community support, there were themes that supported the following mandates: we need to expand business opportunities, creatively explore additional funding sources, develop additional day and employment options, and enhance education on transition choices and resources, as young people graduate from school and move on into the community.

These ideas evolved into a new community collaborative called WIN, the Welcoming Inclusion Network. Modeled after the county's successful Diversion First collaborative, the WIN is comprised of people from a broad spectrum of our community; including individuals with disabilities and family members, CSB staff, non-profit community partners, day and employment providers, and engaged and caring community members. The WIN is brand new, so you can expect more news to come as this grass roots effort grows.

Currently, CSB funding includes June 2018 graduates. Based on projections, funding for FY19 programs will need to be creatively addressed. We are encouraged that the WIN can help expand opportunities that will help create more inclusive communities and ways to stretch County dollars to best meet the needs of our community. This is the life's work of CSB developmental disability services staff; they're committed to finding solutions that work for everyone.

We know that the County's economic challenges require creative solutions this year to ensure a balanced budget.

Thank you for your strong support and continued partnership for people with developmental (and intellectual) disabilities.