

Testimony of Bettina Lawton
On Behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees
Virginia General Assembly
January 2, 2020

Good morning. My name is Bettina Lawton, and I am Chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. We are the largest CSB in Virginia, serving Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. In fiscal year 2019, our CSB provided services to over 21,000 individuals who have challenges relating to mental health, substance use disorder and developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding of the critical services we provide to the most vulnerable in our community. We ask for your support in the following areas.

First: Restore the base budget general fund dollars taken from CSBs as a result of Medicaid expansion. While we appreciate the \$7 million allocated to the CSBs after last year's General Assembly session, including \$1 million to our CSB, CSBs are facing an even greater reduction in FY 2020. Our CSB anticipates it will receive Medicaid funding to make up only one half of the \$4.3 million cut in FY 2020. In addition, we also anticipate absorbing \$1.1 million in administrative costs associated with the transition to seven different managed care organizations for a total adverse budget impact to us of \$3.15 million.

Second: Provide funding to *fully* implement the newly mandated services under STEP-VA. The CSB is very grateful for the \$1.1 million provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to support providing same day access, primary healthcare screening, and outpatient services. This is about nine percent of the total estimated cost of \$12.9 million for us to provide these services. The CSB is working daily to help reach the state's goal of increasing services at the community level, but we believe this should be achieved without shifting funding burdens to local governments. We estimate that it will cost \$18.3 million to implement the services identified in the Governor's budget.

Third: Provide funding to move individuals from the hospital into the community and ensure a strong regional continuum of crisis services and community supports. The CSB is committed to helping alleviate the state hospital bed crisis. Additional funds would allow individuals eligible for discharge at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute to be moved into the community.

Fourth: Increase funding for Medicaid waiver slots and provide adequate waiver rates to serve individuals with developmental disabilities. We appreciate the additional waivers in the Governor's budget, but new waivers have not kept pace with the growth of the waitlist. We also ask that the Medicaid waiver reimbursement rate reflect the higher cost of living and services in the Northern Virginia region

Thank you for your time.

Testimony of Jennifer Adeli
On Behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
Fairfax County Delegation
Virginia General Assembly
January 4, 2020

Good morning, my name is Jennifer Adeli, Vice Chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. We are the largest CSB in Virginia, serving Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. During the last fiscal year, our CSB provided services to over 21,000 individuals who have challenges relating to mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities.

As Fairfax County delegates, your understanding of our unique service area is critical to our success. Today I will share information on two funding issues affecting our services. While both Medicaid expansion and the continued roll-out of STEP-VA present tremendous opportunities, we cannot continue to shift funding burdens to local governments. We ask that the General Assembly allocate the funds necessary to close the gaps described below.

The Fairfax-Falls Church CSB enrolled more than 1,060 individuals who were newly eligible for benefit under Medicaid expansion. Even with these new enrollees, the FY 2019 base budget general fund reduction taken from CSBs exceeded the amount of Medicaid revenue generated, resulting in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services making a one-time payment of \$1 million to our CSB. CSBs are facing an even greater reduction in funds for FY 2020. Our CSB anticipates it will generate revenue to make up only one half of the \$4.3 million cut in FY 2020. We also anticipate absorbing \$1.1 million in administrative costs associated with the transition to seven different managed care organizations for a total adverse budget impact to us of \$3.15 million.

Regarding the ongoing implementation of STEP-VA, we support the goals of STEP-VA and the governor's recommendations. However, it is important that sufficient funding is provided to *fully* implement the newly mandated services under STEP-VA. Our CSB has received \$1.1 million from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to provide same day access, primary healthcare screening, and outpatient services. This is about nine percent of the total estimated cost of \$12.9 million to provide these services. The CSB is working daily to help ensure the state's goal of increasing services at the community level through new service requirements. We estimate that it will cost \$18.3 million to implement the steps outlined in the governor's budget: outpatient services, veterans' services, peer support services, mobile crisis teams, and a hotline.

We look forward to partnering with you during the 2020 session. Please reach out with questions. Thank you for your time.

Testimony of Garrett McGuire
On Behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
Fairfax County Delegation
Virginia General Assembly
January 4, 2020

I am Garrett McGuire, Mount Vernon District representative to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

In Fiscal Year 2019, 4,929 people with developmental disabilities received support coordination services. Our support coordination, residential, and employment and day services help people with developmental disabilities live, work and thrive in the community. Additional funding is needed to increase Medicaid waiver slots and provide adequate waiver rates for individuals with developmental disabilities in the community.

As of November, there are more than 12,730 Virginians with developmental disabilities on the waitlist for Medicaid waivers. Nearly 2,500 of the people on the waitlist are from Fairfax County – 19 percent. While we appreciate the funding in the governor’s budget for more waiver slots, new waivers are still not keeping pace with the growth of the waitlist. In November, there were over 3,000 individuals in Virginia on the priority one waitlist. We ask that the General Assembly allocate the funds necessary to eliminate the priority one waitlist to help those individuals identified as having the most need. This should be a priority in the upcoming session.

Our CSB continues its efforts to provide appropriate community services as the Commonwealth implements the federal settlement agreement. However, the new community-based system of services has led to resource challenges. While the redesigned Medicaid waivers do provide better, and needed, community supports to people with developmental disabilities, Medicaid waiver reimbursement rates remain insufficient. We ask that the General Assembly provide an across-the-board increase to waiver rates and include a Northern Virginia differential. For successful community supports, it is critical that rate formulas reflect the higher cost of living and services in our region.

Lastly, while customized rates provide needed flexibility for individuals requiring intensive, specialized support, the process for obtaining a customized rate has been implemented in a way that is challenging for individuals and providers. The General Assembly should support efforts to streamline the process for approval and re-approval of customized rates to allow providers to maximize Medicaid dollars. This will help ensure adequate services are provided to those with the most intensive behavioral needs.

Our CSB is committed to working together to build a system of care that serves individuals in the most integrated setting and provides quality community-based supports for those with complex needs. Thank you for your efforts and continued partnership.

Testimony of Diane Tuininga
On Behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
Fairfax County Delegation
Virginia General Assembly
January 4, 2020

I am Diane Tuininga, Fairfax City's representative to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

Opioid overdose remains the leading cause of unnatural death in Fairfax County. From 2013 to 2017, opioid deaths in Fairfax-Falls Church increased substantially, going from 40 to 114. While 2018 overdose deaths declined to 83, Fairfax County is seeing a higher proportion of deaths associated with fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. Overdose deaths from fentanyl and fentanyl analogs have risen 1,337 percent since 2009. As the opioid crisis continues, our CSB is seeing an increase in demand for services.

In FY 2019, the CSB served over 6,900 individuals dealing with substance use disorder. This includes many with opioid addiction. Our CSB continues to prioritize local efforts to prevent opioid abuse and limit the number of opioid deaths in our community. Through continued community training, detoxification, and other substance use disorder treatment options, the CSB is taking actions to confront this public health emergency.

We are grateful for the Commonwealth's ongoing commitment to combatting the opioid epidemic. The governor's budget again provides increased funds and opportunities to support those affected by the opioid crisis, including new funding to expand the distribution of NARCAN. The CSB supports the substance use disorder measures within the governor's budget and will continue to be a leader in teaching non-medical personnel to administer life-saving opioid reversal medications through Project REVIVE. In FY 2019, 878 people took REVIVE training and learned how to administer the opioid reversal medication. Nearly 2,700 people have been trained since the program began.

The General Assembly should provide funding for community-based treatment and prevention programs. We know that access to treatment for individuals recovering from addiction is critical to recovery. Substance use disorder is a life-threatening condition and waiting for treatment can greatly reduce the chance for successful intervention. At our CSB, reducing wait times remains a challenge. Currently, 85 individuals are waiting for residential treatment. Funding of \$2.2 million is needed to allow our CSB to open a 24-hour residential treatment center to serve 160 individuals per year.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our priorities. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership.