



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of November 15, 2008
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DATE: November 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Virginia Department of Health funds for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate \$50,000 from the Virginia Department of Health (101.364000) to the Department of Human Services (101.55401) for consultant services to assess the current AIDS Drug Assistance Program, provide training for staff, and improve client adherence to prescribed treatment protocols.

ISSUES: County Board approval is needed to accept and appropriate \$50,000 for specified activities. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) funds will be used to evaluate the current AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) system, initiate improvements to the system, train staff, and monitor and evaluate planned interventions for improved adherence to prescribed treatment protocols.

BACKGROUND: VDH's Division of Disease Prevention is offering a grant of \$50,000 over the next six months (through March 31, 2009), with the possibility of another \$50,000 over the following year, to a number of local health districts to implement ADAP treatment adherence strategies. Arlington County is one of the jurisdictions offered the opportunity to participate in this project.

DISCUSSION: DHS proposes hiring two consultants (pharmacy and program) to conduct a thorough assessment of the ADAP program over the next three months. The assessment will include the ordering and tracking of medications, medication delivery systems, documentation, and both client and provider perspectives. Based on assessment findings, interventions will be proposed to enhance and support client adherence. Planned activities include surveying ADAP stakeholders, development of interventions to improve and support treatment adherence, and development of a monitoring tool to measure the impact of proposed interventions. The VDH grant will also cover staff training and the purchase of medication storage equipment for a new dispensing site at the main DHS building at 3033 Wilson Blvd.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. All expenses will be covered by the VDH grant. No local match is required.

County Manager: _____

Staff: Evelyn Poppell and Reuben Varghese M.D. Public Health, DHS
