



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 24, 2009**

DATE: January 24, 2009

SUBJECT: National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Accept a Program Support Grant from the National Children's Alliance (101.350970) and appropriate \$10,000 in FY 2009 to the Department of Human Services (101.56305).

ISSUES: This is a request to accept grant funds. No net tax support is required and no issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Arlington County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) coordinates the investigation of reported allegations of child sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse in collaboration with its Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) partners. The CAC team includes representatives from the Department of Human Services, Arlington County Police, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the County Attorney's Office, and the INOVA Fairfax Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. Funds will be used to purchase new audio/video equipment for the CAC interview rooms to document forensic interviews.

BACKGROUND: The National Children's Alliance (NCA) is the national umbrella organization for Child Advocacy Centers. Arlington began a pilot Child Advocacy Center program in January 2005 with \$55,000 in NCA grant funding. The primary goal of this program is to reduce trauma to children created by the investigation process. As a fully accredited member of NCA since October 2008, Arlington is eligible to receive an additional \$10,000 in program support funds in FY 2009. Forensic interviewing is a neutral, fact-finding, and legally sound method that ensures child protection and subsequent prosecution. The program support funds will be used to equip the CAC interview rooms with new audio/video equipment to further develop the child-friendly, neutral and forensically sound setting for child abuse interviews.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant is for the period of January 2009 through December 2009. All expenditures are covered by the grant. No local match is required.

County Manager: _____

Staff: Graciela A. Gerace Cerda, CAC, Child & Family Services, DHS