

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS

FY 2010 Annual Consolidated Plan

This summarizes comments from the community on the draft FY 2010 Annual Consolidated Plan. Staff has received this community feedback through the County Board FY 2010 Budget Hearing on March 24 and 25, 2009 and other community meetings and contacts.

- **Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE)** – this Unitarian Universalist-based group expressed thanks for Macedonia Apartments funding, the proposed \$25,000 for the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, asked the Board to hold the line on ESL, affordable housing and transitional housing, along with human services in general.
- **Arlington Nonprofit Network** – Fred Jones expressed support for safety net funding and asked the Board to please resist the temptation to make compromises.
- **Arlington Food Assistance Center** – Sue Covucci expressed support for safety net funding, 50% increase in households served over last year was noted, up to 1,200 requests weekly.
- **Alliance for Housing Solutions** – Sara Bailey and Susan Retz expressed support for DHS’ Supportive Housing Program/proposed budget, suggestion that now is an ideal time to aggressively pursue new “bricks and mortar” projects due to decreased acquisition and construction costs.
- **Culpeper Gardens** – Doug Williams expressed support for the proposed budget and asked the Board to please adopt it.
- **Green Party** – support for safety net, DHS in general, opposition to trolley, arts, North Tract.
- **Offender Aid Restoration (OAR)** – Gail Arnall introduced an OAR client, who also applauded services of DHS.
- **Client** – general support from Community Residences client for Drewry, Clarendon House and other DHS services.
- **A-SPAN** – About seven speakers, including A-SPAN board members and past and present directors, requested County funding. Approximately 15 audience members stood in solidarity. It was noted that A-SPAN is listed on the County website under homeless services, yet receives no County funding. 40-50 bagged meals used to be enough for the Homeless Bagged Meal Program; the need currently spikes over 80.
- **Project Family** – four speakers expressed opposition to proposed cuts in Project Family.
- **Vanguard Services** – Debbie Taylor expressed opposition to proposed \$225,000 in substance abuse cuts and the impact on Hispanics. She noted that SA affects 15-27 percent of the population, her clients are not necessarily self-advocates, and 50 percent of Vanguard clients return to work.
- **CrisisLink** – Jean Falvey noted that CrisisLink is part of the safety net. CrisisLink experienced a 142 percent jump in suicide calls from Oct 07 – Oct 08 and a 171 percent increase in calls from Arlington residents. CrisisLink leverages space and volunteers, saving Arlington County \$930,000 in EMS/fire response.

- **Project Family** – 9 staff members are affected by the reduction in funding. asked to restore funding. Program helps immigrant families with early intervention in identifying developmental delays and getting services. Three speakers were in support of this program.
- **Community Services Board** – restore funding for program for substance abuse for Hispanic males-Nuevo Dia; restore \$40,000 for ACT program (substance abuse services for inmates); and restore \$25,000 for services for young adult with mental illness. A large number of supporters were present. The Program has served 279 clients. Several individual stories about the effectiveness and need for the program was described. Also support was expressed for Vanguard substance abuse program for women.
- **Community Services Board** – Representative spoke about restoring funding for young adult mental health services. CPASS and ARC of No. Va. Is affected by reduction in funding as the number of graduates is small this year compared to the past.
- **NAMI** – Representative spoke to restore funding of \$15,000 for CSB program. Specifically \$25,000 for youth transitional services and \$100,000 for residential services.
- **Interfaith Council** - spoke in support of “Safety Net” program. Some supporters were present.
- **SEEC** - Andres Tobar spoke in support of funding for SEEC. He thanked the Fire and Police for service and spoke in support of their retirement benefits and raises. Also asked for reinstatement of funding for Project Family and T.J. school improvement.
- **ECDC** – Laake Tesfaye spoke in support of funding for refugee program. Many supporters were in attendance. The EDG director also expressed thanks for funding for small business incubator program.
- **Alexandria Health Center (ANSI)**. Demand for services has doubled in the last year. Programs served 215 children;922 residents Arlington residents; requested that \$50,000 be reinstated for the health clinic
- **M.Broadnax** - spoke about need for transportation help and housing for homeless individuals, especially single males. Indicated increase in number of homeless persons from 450 to 536 in past year.
- **Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)** – Nina Janapaul, Executive Director of APAH, thanked them for the CDBG and AHIF funding which is very important to making units affordable. The 750 affordable units that APAH has developed wouldn't have been possible without County partnership. She argued that the downturn in the economy presents a unique opportunity to grow our stock of affordable housing through lower construction costs, \$44 million in TCAP funds and other tools available from the stimulus. A goal of the County is to get homeless into permanent supportive housing and the affordable housing platform is the tool to get the homeless housed.
- **Doorways for Women and Families** – Linda Dunphy, Executive Director, talked about increasing the Transitional Housing Grants Program from \$225,000 to \$540,000 resulting in a monthly rental subsidy of \$750, establishing a funding formula so homeless families receive equitable subsidies across the Arlington transitional housing programs and expanding the grant eligibility to single women in domestic violence shelters. She also talked about changes to the Housing Grant program to make it more accessible to low-income families such as revising the grant formulas to reflect the Arlington rental market so low-income families pay no more than 35% of income toward housing and relaxing the work requirements.