



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 21, 2012**

DATE: June 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Acceptance and Appropriation of a Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia Grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager or her designee to accept \$10,000 in FY 2013 grant funds from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia on behalf of the County Board.
2. Appropriate \$10,000 in Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia funds (101.350970) to the Department of Human Services (101.56305) for Arlington's Child Advocacy Center.

ISSUES: This is a request to accept and appropriate \$10,000 for staff training. 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 community partners. Funds will be used to train staff in forensic interviewing techniques.

DISCUSSION: The Arlington Child Advocacy Center applied for and received a 12-month grant from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia for January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. The funds were awarded on June 20, 2012. The funding is awarded through the National Children's Alliance (NCA) under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Justice.

CACs serve children under age 18 with reported sexual or severe physical abuse. The mission of CACs is to ensure that investigations of child abuse are comprehensive and that all services meet the age-appropriate needs of the child victim. The CAC combines the skills and expertise of a multidisciplinary team.

The collective approach reduces further trauma of children by the intervention systems designed to protect them. The Arlington CAC will use NCA funds to provide multidisciplinary team

County Manager:

County Attorney:

MNC

35.

Staff: Laura Ragins, Child and Family Services Division, DHS

training in basic and advanced forensic interviewing strategies. Staff will be trained in best practices for the provision of services to child victims and their families.

FISCAL IMPACT: No local match funds are required. All expenditures are covered by grant funds. The grant period runs from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.