



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 18, 2008**

DATE: September 24, 2008

SUBJECT: National Children's Alliance (NCA) Training Grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Accept a Training Grant from the NCA (101.350970) and appropriate \$5,000 in FY 2009 to the Department of Human Services (101.56305).

ISSUES: This is a request to accept grant funds 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 provide members with enhanced training in forensic interviewing.

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 grant funding from the NCA. The primary goal of this program is to eliminate trauma to children created by the investigation process. As an associate member of this organization since May 2005, Arlington is eligible to receive an additional \$5,000 for training grant funds in Fiscal Year 2009. Forensic interviewing is a neutral, fact-finding, and legally sound method that ensures child protection and subsequent prosecution. The training funds will be used to further develop the forensic training skills of team members that will lead to improvement in the investigation of child abuse cases.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant is for the period of October 2008 through December 2008. All expenditures are covered by the grant. No local match is required.

County Manager: _____

Staff: Graciela Cerda, Child & Family Services, DHS