



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 8, 2006**

DATE: June 8, 2006

SUBJECT: Training Scholarship

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate \$4,000 from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) to the Department of Human Services (101.438305) for the system of care enhancement training for children and youth with or at risk of emotional disturbances or disorders and their families.

ISSUE: None.

SUMMARY: The scholarship award affords staff the opportunity to engage families and youth and improve interagency collaboration in community-based service planning and provision. It covers the registration, travel, and lodging costs of two staff and a consumer representative.

BACKGROUND: Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) provided scholarship funds for participation in national training designed to enhance the participants' localities' capacities for collaborative planning and service implementation among child serving agencies, and to provide guidance regarding evidence-based practices along with outcome evaluation. The training emphasizes the goals outlined in "*Transforming Mental Health Care in America: The Federal Action Agenda: First Steps.*" The Federal Action Agenda, developed through collaboration among twenty federal agencies, is a specific plan for the initial federal response to the charge for wholesale transformation of mental health systems, as recommended by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Individuals representing local mental health and other child-serving agencies, including education, child welfare, juvenile justice, health, and substance abuse, together with family members and youth, are invited to attend this training as well as state-level partners from all of these sectors.

DISCUSSION: The training emphasizes service delivery approaches that are family driven, youth guided, and individualized which represent evidence-based or promising practices that achieve positive outcomes for children and their families. Incorporating system changes and techniques from the trainings will help improve outcomes for children and their families with their increased involvement.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement and no impact to local funding or net tax support.

County Manager:

Staff: Diana Manganelli