



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of December 09, 2006**

DATE: November 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Virginia Department of Health Cooperative Agreement Increase

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Appropriate \$145,667 from the 2007 Virginia Department of Health (VDH) (101.364101) to the Department of Human Services (101.55000) for public health services.
2. Authorize one (1.0 FTE) permanent grant-funded position in the Department of Human Services (101.55202.) to provide supervision of nurses providing health services to students in the Arlington Public Schools.

ISSUES: None

SUMMARY: VDH contracts with Arlington County to operate a local public health department. VDH awarded \$2,942,115 for the FY 2007 COOP Agreement which is an increase of \$194,182 over the FY 2007 COOP Agreement revenue estimated. The increased revenue will be used to sustain public health activities not adequately funded in the current budget and add a supervisory nursing position (1.0 FTE) that will result in a more manageable span of control to ensure appropriate supervision of health services in the public schools.

BACKGROUND: Arlington County became a locally administered public health department July, 1998 and agreed to operate a local public health department which meets all requirements contained in the *Code of Virginia* applicable to the Virginia Department of Health and which meets any applicable federal requirements. Arlington County and VDH share the cost for mandated public health programs. VDH pays for its share via the VDH COOP agreement.

DISCUSSION: Revenue from the FY 2007 COOP Agreement was estimated to be \$2,747,933 and that amount was appropriated in the FY 2007 budget. The actual FY 2007 COOP Agreement award was \$2,942,115, an increase of \$194,182. The increase revenue will be used for the following public health activities:

- \$20,557 to offset a decrease in the 2007 WIC allocation;
- \$21,600 to purchase new and replacement operating equipment as follows: \$5,100 to implement new VDH Webvison lab module, \$2,000 for dental x-ray storage computer, \$6,500 for replacement of aging school health equipment, and \$8,000 for replacement of Environmental Health laptops used in restaurant inspections;

County Manager: _____

Staff: Tom Maddox, Public Health, DHS

- \$19,000 for increased costs of oral contraceptives, family health operating supplies and laboratory operating supplies costs;
- \$18,000 to maintain the refugee health nurse position after loss of the grant in FY 07;
- \$3,000 for x-ray maintenance machine agreement for tuberculosis program;
- \$21,363 to replace rent (3033 Wilson) funding lost by the LPACAP cuts in the Diagnosis and Evaluation program; and
- \$42,147 for 1.0 FTE public health nurse. The School Health Program provides routine and emergency health services to 18,263 students in Arlington Public Schools. Services include first aid and emergency triage, medication administration, preventive education, hearing and vision screening, immunization monitoring, case management for students with complex health needs and collaboration with the community and schools. Currently there are 56 public health nurses and school health aides who provide these direct services, with only 3 public health nurse supervisors providing oversight. Each supervisor manages between 17 and 20 nurses and school health aides, all located offsite in schools throughout the County. In addition, each of the supervisors is also responsible for at least one of the following School Health program:
 - Ready Families
 - Consultation/case management for the Teen Parenting Program
 - Coordination of immunization clinics
 - Coordination of health appraisal clinics for uninsured students.

The additional position will lower the supervisor to subordinate ratio from 18.6 to 14 per supervisor. A smaller span of control will allow supervisors to visit the schools more often, intervene while problems are still manageable, provide better staff oversight and training, and improve communication with school staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: DHS is appropriating \$145,667 of the \$194,182 in increased revenue. Therefore, DHS net tax support will decrease by \$48,515 in FY 2007.