

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 5, 2007

TO: THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #40: AIDES AT LADREY SENIOR CENTER

This memorandum provides information on Home Health Aides and Companion Aides for residents of Ladrey High-Rise and Annie B. Rose communities.

In FY 2005, the City agreed to provide \$25,000 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) enabling DHS to loan funds to ARHA to fund four Home Health Aides until ARHA's HUD application for the ROSS grant program renewal was approved. Upon receipt of the ROSS grant funds ARHA was expected to repay whatever portion of the \$25,000 that was expended to date. HUD did not renew the grant and ARHA did not repay the City.

Although ongoing funding has never been formally established in the DHS budget (subsequent years' costs have been absorbed in the Office of Aging and Adult Services budget), the City has continued to provide this funding through the current fiscal year, and it is expected to be funded in the FY 2008 DHS budget. The actual cost that has been invoiced by ARHA for the Home Health Aides averages \$2,900 per month, for an annual cost of approximately \$34,600. In addition, the City is charged \$7,070 for "liability insurance." The total annual cost charged to the City by ARHA is approximately \$41,700. It should be noted that although there may have at one time been five Home Health Aides, the City has only ever been billed by ARHA for three home health aide positions. At this time, it is believed that two of the aides have been terminated. One of whom worked full time and one who worked half time. As of the end of January, the City is being invoiced for only one full-time aide. Once the vacant positions are filled, the City will restart funding those positions.

The Department of Human Services also provides Companion Aide services directly at both Ladrey and Annie B. Rose. These aides perform the same services as the ARHA Home Health Aides. Currently, the Department funds 3 full time Companion Aides at the Ladrey, who provide companion support to approximately 28 Ladrey and Annie B. Rose residents. The FY 2008 budget includes new funding (\$77,000) for a DHS Social Worker position to provide

assessment of clients, case management to the residents at Ladrey and Annie B. Rose and supervision of the Companion Aide program at both buildings. This position was previously an ARHA position funded through the ROSS grant. The position will now be funding by City dollars and will be a DHS staff position.

Given the number of vacancies and the state of flux currently existing among the Home Health Aides program at ARHA, Council may wish to consider having DHS increase the number of Companion Aides to fully cover the needs of the Ladrey and Annie B. Rose communities. Depending upon the number of Ladrey and Rose residents being served by the ARHA home health aides, approximately 2.0, or 2.5 FTEs of additional aides would be needed at a maximum cost of \$41,600/year. The shift of this program entirely to DHS-funded Companion Aide positions, in addition to having no additional budget cost, would enable the City to provide ongoing assessment of the needs of the clients, ensure the highest quality of care and more comprehensive oversight of the care.