



Accomplishments & Events

Housing, Health & Human Services

Samuel Madden Homes. In 1993, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) Board of Commissioners voted to consider the redevelopment or rehabilitation of 166 units of aging public housing. Built in 1945, Samuel Madden Homes includes 100 units at the Berg in north Old Town, and 66 units along Route 1. Redevelopment or rehabilitation is being considered due to deterioration of the units. ARHA established a task force in early 1994 to provide guidance and recommendations to the ARHA Board on the future of Samuel Madden. The Task Force includes residents of Samuel Madden and surrounding neighborhoods, City and private sector representatives, and the ARHA Board. Two subcommittees were established: one to explore redevelopment, the other to look at rehabilitation. In December 1994, the subcommittees presented their reports to the ARHA Board. The Board is preparing to retain a consultant who will evaluate both reports and make a recommendation by mid-November.

Arlandria/Chirilagua Housing Cooperative. Rehabilitation of this 284 resident-owned-unit, housing cooperative in Arlandria is expected to be completed in September. The sponsors of the project are the Center for Cooperative Housing, which owns the property, and the Arlandria-based Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee. City Council allocated \$576,000 in Housing Trust Fund monies to this project, including \$150,000 to assist tenants with down payments. In addition, the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee was awarded a grant of nearly \$1 million from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta in April 1995 to provide permanent financing for the project.

HIV/AIDS. Alexandria reported 75 cases of AIDS and 71 cases of HIV infection in 1994. Since 1982, there have been 479 AIDS cases in the City and 293 deaths. During FY 1995, the Alexandria Health Department served people with HIV/AIDS through case management, medical care and dental services. The Alexandria Task Force on AIDS presented a report to City Council, "Issues Facing the Community, HIV/AIDS in Alexandria." The report indicated that HIV infection continues to rise faster among women, African Americans, and persons who risk infection by sharing needles used for injecting drugs, or through sexual contact with infected persons who had shared needles.

Medical Services for Children. The Health Department's Casey Health Center provided 5,728 medical visits for infants and children, a slight increase over FY 1994. A \$100,000 Virginia Department of Health grant provided continued partial funding for afternoon and early evening pediatric clinics at the Casey Health Center, as well as a weekly Well Baby Clinic for two-week-old infants at the North St. Asaph Street site. The expanded hours at the pediatric clinics helped to minimize pediatric visits to Alexandria Hospital's Emergency Department. Since grant funding for expanded pediatric services began in 1989, Emergency Department visits by indigent children have been reduced by more than 60%.

Infant Mortality. The 1993 Alexandria infant mortality rate (latest data available) was 5.4 per 1,000 live births, a decline of over 50% from the 11.6 rate in 1989. This is lower than the statewide rate of 8.6. Efforts by the Health Department and local agencies to provide the full range of services needed by medically at-risk, low-income women have contributed to this decline.

Center for Employment Training. The City's Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) recommended in its August 1994 report, "Welfare and Work," that an aggressive effort be made to move families on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) from dependency to work and responsibility. The SSAB proposed short-term, job-targeted training; private sector jobs; a community work experience program; and volunteer community service. City Council in December 1994 redirected the City's \$700,000 annual AFDC supplement to finance work and training programs. Job-targeted training is being implemented through the City's contract with the Center for Employment Training (CET). CET began an automated office skills training class in May. When fully operational, CET will train approximately 200 AFDC clients per year for private sector jobs.

Public Assistance Programs. The number of City residents receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) decreased in FY 1995 for the first time in six years. The average monthly AFDC caseload decreased to 1,640 households, a 4% decrease from FY 1994. The average monthly Food Stamp caseload also decreased, dropping to 2,849, an 8% decrease FY 1995. However, the Medicaid caseload continues to grow, with the average monthly caseload increasing to 3,551, a 7% increase over FY 1994.

Alexandria Agency on Aging. This agency continues to serve over 2,500 Alexandrians aged 60 and over in a range of programs. The Agency and the Adult Services Unit of the Department of Human Services are working to establish an information clearinghouse to direct elderly and disabled citizens to long-term care and aging services available locally. The City provides 58% of the agency's budget, with federal and State funds, client fees, and donations providing the balance.

Community Mental Health Services. The Mental Health Center was awarded two multi-year federal grants totaling over \$10 million in FY 1995. A five-year federal grant from the Center for Mental Health Services will fund a program of intensive counseling services to troubled youth, in partnership with the City's Department of Human Services, the Alexandria City Public Schools, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the Alexandria Health Department, and private service providers. In addition, a four-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will enable the Center to enhance mental health services offered to persons affected by HIV/AIDS. From October 1994 through June 1995, 80 individuals with the disease and 65 family members received services through the Alexandria Mental Health HIV/AIDS Project.

Drug Treatment Services. Federal grant monies, totaling \$167,984, are providing funding for residential and outpatient treatment services for substance abusers with criminal offenses. Awarded to Alexandria under the Washington-Baltimore High Intensive Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative, the grant will span two federal fiscal years and will serve an estimated 100 persons. In conjunction with

Sheltered Homes of Alexandria, the Columbus Street Home with two supervised apartments for seven homeless persons with a substance abuse problem and a mental illness opened in October of 1994. They are the first such supervised apartments in the City for homeless persons with both a mental illness and substance abuse problem.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Project STEPOUT/MANHOOD, an Office on Women program, begun in 1990, relies on volunteers to keep young people in school and to prevent teen pregnancy. New STEPOUT groups organized this year included one for girls sponsored by Meade Memorial Church; two by parents at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center; and a MANHOOD group for boys supervised by Resident Police Officer David Ray. PRO-TEEN/PRO-YOUTH, a program coordinated by the Interagency Consortium on Adolescent Pregnancy with funding from the Virginia General Assembly, provided educational, recreational, and cultural activities to youth ages 9 to 16. Altogether, 159 youth participated in pregnancy prevention programs in FY 1995. In 1993 (latest data available), there were 316 teen pregnancies in Alexandria, two more than in 1992, according to the Virginia Health Department. The pregnancy rate was 136 per 1,000 females aged 15 through 19.