



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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May 23, 2018

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance

In Re: Grant # BJA-2018-13601

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Single State Authority for substance use disorder services for the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am writing to offer my support for the grant proposal submitted by the City of Alexandria, Virginia to establish an Adult Drug Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

The City of Alexandria is a leader in the Commonwealth of Virginia for advancing programs and services aimed at bridging the gap between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems. Alexandria's Jail Diversion efforts over the last decade coupled with their multi-agency focus over the last three years in battling the opioid crisis, demonstrate their community's commitment to working collaboratively and achieving real results.

I have worked directly with the substance use treatment programs provided by the City of Alexandria for many years, including its SAMHSA-recognized Opioid Treatment Program, and am consistently impressed by the competence and commitment of the treatment staff. On several occasions I have recommended that State and Federal officials tour the Opiate Treatment Program as an example of a well-managed, comprehensive program that is able to treat a diverse population utilizing the concepts of recovery oriented services.

If awarded a two-year implementation grant, I have no doubt that the City of Alexandria will achieve excellent outcomes in their Adult Drug Court. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is committed to supporting the City of Alexandria develop and operate an Adult Drug Court that will support recovery, decrease recidivism and help address the opioid crisis in Virginia as an example of a drug treatment court utilizing medication assisted treatment.

I hope that you will favorably consider this application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mellie Randall".

Mellie Randall
Substance Use Disorder Policy Director