

**Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services
in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century**

February 24, 2015

General Assembly Building

Richmond, Virginia

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century met on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia.

Presentation: Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth — Dr. Steven Sterns, Merrill H. Bankard Professor of Economics, University of Virginia

Dr. Steven Sterns, Merrill H. Bankard Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia, presented information about a recently completed study of the availability of public mental health services in the Commonwealth. He described characteristics of individuals seeking public mental health services, including age, educational levels, average household income, and insurance coverage, and an overview of the 40 community services boards providing public mental health services in the Commonwealth, including the size of the population in the region served by each community services board, the types of services offered, and the total number of individuals served by year. Dr. Sterns also provided an estimate of the number of individuals in each community services board's service area that could be expected to need mental health services, based on mental health problem prevalence data that takes into account age, race, education, family income, and insurance status. He noted the deficit in the supply of mental health services as compared to the demand for mental health services provided by community services boards, with all but a few community services boards expected to demonstrate such deficits and a few expected to demonstrate substantial deficits. Dr. Sterns pointed out that individuals without insurance of any type were the most likely to experience difficulty in accessing mental health services.

Discussion of Work Plan for 2015 Interim

Following Dr. Sterns' presentation, the members of the Joint Subcommittee discussed the work plan for the 2015 interim. Senator Deeds encouraged the work groups to meet as needed to carry out their work. The members agreed that the work groups should meet on the same days as the full Joint Subcommittee, and that meetings would be held beginning in April. Dates and times of upcoming meetings will be posted as soon as possible.