

**DMHMRSAS**

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of  
**Mental Health, Mental Retardation  
and Substance Abuse Services**

**SJR 77:**  
**What DMHMRSAS Can Contribute**  
Plans to Address Recommendations from  
*Mitigating the Cost of Substance Abuse in Virginia*

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# DMHMRSAS Unique Role

- § 37.2-310 - DMHMRSAS responsible for:
  - Planning
  - Evaluating
  - Providing technical assistance
  - Training
  - Applying research
- 40 community services boards
- 44,000 individuals receive substance abuse treatment services yearly

# DMHMRSAS Response to JLARC Report

- Provides an excellent foundation for improving accountability and access to quality substance abuse treatment and prevention services.
- Eight of the 16 formal recommendations involve DMHMRSAS as a critical player.

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 1

- *Needs Assessment of DMHMRSAS and CSBs to identify:*
  - *information technology and human resources necessary to obtain accurate client outcomes data from community services boards; and*
  - *number and expertise of staff required to analyze outcomes information.*
- *Identify specific steps that must be taken to produce ongoing evaluations, in accordance with Statute.*
- DMHMRSAS has started working with CSB representatives to address this recommendation.

# National Outcome Measures (SAMHSA)

- **Clinical Outcomes**

- Reduced use of drugs and alcohol
- Improved employment or education status
- Reduced involvement in CJS
- Improved stability in housing
- Improved social connectedness (under development)

- **System Outcomes**

- Improved access or capacity
- Improved retention
- Improved client perceptions of care
- Improved cost-effectiveness
- Use of evidence-based practices (under development)

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 4

- *Evaluate whether CSBs have consistently developed appropriate income-based sliding-scale fee structures that minimize the amount charged to lowest-income clients while maximizing overall fee revenues.*
- DMHMRSAS has started collecting information and has established a workgroup of CSB and Central Office staff to review fee structures.

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendations 6 & 7

- *Determine the level and nature of resources needed to help local SA providers identify evidence-based practices, train staff on their correct application, and provide follow-up training to ensure adherence to evidence-based programs.*
- *Encourage SA treatment providers to incorporate more evidence-based practices (EBPs) into their services by establishing a percentage of services for which EBPs should be incorporated, with an annual monetary incentive for those who meet or exceed that goal.*
- DMHMRSAS has a training plan under development and will establish a workgroup with CSBs to review costs and resources needed.

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 9

- *DMHMRSAS, CSBs and CJS agencies should collaborate with criminal justice agencies to develop a training curriculum for judiciary to address:*
  - *the effects of substance abuse; and*
  - *the treatment options available.*
- **DMHMRSAS will form a workgroup with CSBs, DOC, DJJ, DCJS and Supreme Court.**



# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 13

- *DMHMRSAS and DOE should work with local offices to:*
  - *assess the level and type of resources needed:*
    - *to track outcomes; and*
    - *conduct evaluations effectively for local prevention programs.*
  - *assess the level and qualifications of additional resources needed in the State prevention offices to:*
    - *provide adequate training and technical assistance to local Prevention staff; and*
    - *review the results of these evaluations.*
- **DMHMRSAS will form a workgroup with DOE and staff from local prevention programs.**

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 14

- *DMHMRSAS and DOE should convene State and local stakeholders to develop statewide standard outcomes measures to capture the impact of prevention programs on Virginians.*
  - *Plan detailing the timeline for developing and implementing these measures across the State should be developed; and*
  - *Assessment should be conducted to identify the resources needed to implement a statewide system for tracking program outcomes, including the need for information technology.*
- **DMHMRSAS will form a workgroup with DOE and staff from local prevention programs.**

# DMHMRSAS Response Recommendation 16

- *DMHMRSAS and DOE should determine:*
  - *How many staff and supporting resources necessary to provide adequate technical assistance to local offices on selecting and adhering to evidence-based programs; and*
  - *Necessary expertise of local staff.*
- **DMHMRSAS will form a workgroup with DOE and staff from local prevention programs.**

# DMHMRSAS Response

- DMHMRSAS values accountability, stewardship and quality services;
- SA treatment makes the community healthier and safer for everyone.