

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

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century (the Joint Subcommittee) was established by Senate Joint Resolution 47 during the 2014 Session of the General Assembly. The Joint Subcommittee was tasked with:

- i. Reviewing and coordinating with the work of the Governor's Task Force on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response;
- ii. Reviewing the laws of the Commonwealth governing the provision of mental health services, including involuntary commitment of persons in need of mental health care;
- iii. Assessing the systems of publicly funded mental health services, including emergency, forensic, and long-term mental health care and the services provided by local and regional jails and juvenile detention facilities;
- iv. Identifying gaps in services and the types of facilities and services that will be needed to serve the needs of the Commonwealth in the 21st century;
- v. Examining and incorporating the objectives of House Joint Resolution 240 (1996) and House Joint Resolution 225 (1998) into its study;
- vi. Reviewing and considering the report *The Behavioral Health Services Study Commission: A Study of Virginia's Publicly Funded Behavioral Health Services in the 21st Century*; and
- vii. Recommending statutory or regulatory changes to improve access to services, the quality of services, and outcomes for individuals in need of services.

During the 2017 Session, the Joint Subcommittee was extended for two years in the 2017 Appropriation Act (Chapter 836 of the Acts of Assembly of 2017). During the 2019 Regular Session, the Joint Subcommittee was continued once again, to November 30, 2021\*, with the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 301. Senate Joint Resolution 301 directed the Joint Subcommittee to continue its work with regard to:

- i. Reviewing the laws of the Commonwealth governing the provision of mental health services, including involuntary commitment of persons in need of mental health care;
- ii. Assessing the systems and structure of publicly funded mental health services, including emergency, forensic, and long-term mental health care and the services provided by local and regional jails and juvenile detention facilities;
- iii. Identifying gaps in services and the types of facilities and services that will be needed to serve the needs of the Commonwealth in the 21st century; and
- iv. Recommending statutory or regulatory changes needed to improve access to services, the quality of services, and outcomes for individuals in need of services.

\* Please note that during the August 5, 2020, meeting of the Joint Subcommittee this date was mistakenly announced as November 30, 2020. This document reflects the correct date.