



Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health &
Developmental Services



HB 1426 (Garrett)/SB 1221 (Barker) Alternative Transportation Workgroup

June 12, 2017

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HB 1426 (Garrett)/SB 1221 (Barker)

1. § 1. The Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Commissioner) and the Director of Criminal Justice Services (the Director) shall, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, including the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Virginia, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Office of Emergency Medical Services, Mental Health America of Virginia, VOCAL, Inc., the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Association of Health Plans, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, and the University of Virginia Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy, develop a model for the use of alternative transportation providers to provide safe and efficient transportation of individuals involved in the emergency custody or involuntary admission process as an alternative to transportation by law enforcement.

The model shall include criteria for the certification of alternative transportation providers, including the development of a training curriculum required to achieve such certification, and shall identify the appropriate agency responsible for providing such training and such certification. Further, the Commissioner and the Director shall identify any barriers to the use of alternative transportation in the Commonwealth and detail the costs associated with the implementation of such a model, along with the cost savings and benefits associated with the successful implementation of such a model.

The model shall be completed by October 1, 2017, and reported to the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, the House Committee for Courts of Justice, and the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice. The report on such model shall also be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2018 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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- Requires Commissioners of DBHDS and DCJS to “develop a model for the use of alternative transportation providers to provide safe and efficient transportation of individuals involved in the emergency custody or involuntary admission process as an alternative to transportation by law enforcement.”
- Requires model to be developed in conjunction with relevant stakeholders listed in legislation.
- Requires model to include criteria for alternative transportation providers including training and which agency should be responsible.
- Also requires group to look at barriers, cost, cost savings, and benefits.

HB 1426 (Garrett)/SB 1221 (Barker)

- Final report of recommendations is due to SJ47 Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, the House Committee for Courts of Justice, and the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice by October 1, 2017.

Workgroup Membership

Co-Chairs- Will Frank, DBHDS & Shannon Dion, DCJS

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)- Stacy Gill & Stephen Craver

Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)- Teresa Gooch

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)- Jennifer Faison & Lisa Moore, Mt. Rogers CSB

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)- Stephany Melton

Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)- Ali Faruk

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)- Michael Berg

Mental Health America Virginia (MHAV)- Anna Mendez

VOCAL- Daniel Barrows

Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)- Jennifer Wicker

Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP)- Stephanie Lynch

Office of the Executive Secretary (OES), Magistrate Services- Mason Byrd & Jonathan Green

Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP)- Chief Tony Sullivan, Abingdon Police Department

Virginia Sheriffs Association (VSA)- Major Tom Woody & Captain Kenny Epling, Hanover Sheriff's Office

Virginia Association of Regional Jails (VARJ)- Superintendent Bobby Russell, Western Virginia Regional Jail

University of Virginia Institute for Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy (ILPPP)- John Oliver

Organization

- Workgroup is scheduled to have 3 (3 hour) meetings, with the potential for a 4th if necessary.
 - 1st meeting May 1, DBHDS Central Office
 - 2nd meeting May 30, DBHDS Central Office
 - 3rd meeting July 17, DBHDS Central Office
- Each meeting focuses on specified goals required by legislation.
- Goal of workgroup is to develop a model of transportation that focuses on recovery and is a true alternative to law enforcement.
- Draft report will be sent to participants for approval August 1.
- Final report due to General Assembly by October 1.

Meeting 1

- May 1, 2017, 1:00pm-4:00pm, DBHDS Central Office.
- Workgroup heard presentations from:
 - DBHDS on the Southwest Virginia (Mt. Rogers CSB) Pilot Program.
 - G4S Secure Solutions on their work in North Carolina.
- Workgroup also began discussions of general framework options for models.
 - Statewide single source RFP.
 - Statewide provider certification process.
 - Locally based contracting with provider and CSB, ED, Law Enforcement, etc.

Meeting 2

- May 30, 2017, 1:00pm-4:00pm, DBHDS Central Office.
- Workgroup continued discussion on framework.
- Workgroup discussed criteria for providing transport.
 - Focus was given to criteria used in Mt. Rogers Pilot.
- Workgroup also discussed agency to manage program.
 - Consideration was given to:
 - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
 - Department of Criminal Justice Services
 - Department of Health Office of Emergency Services
 - Department of Medical Assistance Services

Meeting 3

- July 17, 2017, 1:00pm-4:00pm, DBHDS Central Office.
- Workgroup will discuss cost of suggested model.
- Workgroup will also discuss possible cost savings of model.
- Workgroup will finally discuss barriers to implementing model.

- 4th meeting can be planned if needed.

Final Report

- Final report will be drafted by DBHDS and DCJS.
- Draft will be sent to workgroup membership by August 1, 2017.
- Comments will be due by August 15, 2017.
- Final report will be submitted to SJ47, House Courts of Justice, and Senate Courts of Justice by October 1, 2017.

Thank You

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