

# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## SJ47 Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century

### Work Group 1: System Structure and Financing

<p><b>Telemental Health</b></p> <p>Provide additional funding to support expansion of telemental health infrastructure</p>	<p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to provide <b>\$ 1.1 million per year</b> for 3 years to Appalachian Tele-mental Health Network Initiative</p>
<p><b>Alternative Transportation</b></p> <p>Provide funding to support first phase of implementing alternative transportation plan recommended by the Task Force created in 2017 by HB 1426 and SB 1221</p>	<p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to provide \$10.2 million to implement the alternative transportation model set out in RD 337 (2017) Final Report of the Alternative Transportation Workgroup statewide.</p>
<p><b>TDO Admissions to Private Hospitals</b></p> <p>Support a study to identify factors leading to (i) increased TDO admissions and (ii) increased proportion of TDO patients admitted to state hospitals and propose immediate actions to reverse this trend. The study will also evaluate options for alternatives to treatment in emergency departments and private inpatient facilities to reduce the overall number of TDOs in the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>Assemble a work group to conduct a collaborative study on measures needed to facilitate effective emergency intervention services and reduce admissions pursuant to temporary detention orders at state hospitals. The work group should include relevant stakeholders and should develop legislative and budget proposals intended to reduce overall admissions and reduce the burden on state hospitals.</p>
<p><b>STEP -VA</b></p> <p>Support ongoing efforts to implement STEP-VA in accordance with the provisions of CH 607/683 (2017)</p>	<p>The Governor's proposed budget includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$ 11.8 GF to expand access to same-day mental health screening and evaluation to every community services board in the Commonwealth + an additional \$6.4 million to complete implementation of same day access</li> <li>• \$11.2 million GF to support outpatient clinics to provide primary health care screenings for individuals receiving services at community services boards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b></p> <p>Support efforts to fund expanded access to permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness</p>	<p>The Governor's budget includes \$4.6 million to expand supportive housing for adults with serious mental illness.</p>

<p><b>DBHDS Community Integration Plan</b></p> <p>Support DBHDS efforts to reduce the census at state hospitals by improving community integration of individuals with mental illness</p>	<p>The Governor's budget includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$ 4.8 million to support needed community services as a result of the mental health facility census</li> <li>• \$6.9 million in discharge planning assistance (DAP) to assist in discharging approximately 80-90 people on the extraordinary barriers list currently awaiting discharge from state hospitals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plan for fiscal realignment.</b></p> <p>Continue to support development of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources plan for fiscal realignment of the public behavioral health system.</p>	<p>Item 284 of the Appropriations Act of 2017 directed the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to prepare an implementation plan for the financial realignment of the Commonwealth's public behavioral health system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A timeline and funding mechanism to eliminate the extraordinary barriers list and maximize the use of community resources;</li> <li>(ii) sources for bridge funding to ensure continuity of care in transitioning patients to the community and to address one-time, non-recurring expenses associated with implementation of the plan,</li> <li>(iii) state hospital appropriations that can be made available to community services boards to expand community mental health and substance abuse program capacity,</li> <li>(iv) financial incentives for community services boards to serve individuals in the community rather than state hospitals,</li> <li>(v) detailed state hospital employee transition plans,</li> <li>(vi) matrices to assess performance outcomes, and</li> <li>(vii) legislative and budget actions necessary for implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding Options</b></p> <p>Explore options for funding the public behavioral health system including options available under the Affordable Care Act.</p>	<p>The System Structure and Finance Work Group will study options for additional funding for behavioral health services, including options available under the Affordable Care Act.</p>

## Work Group 2: Criminal Justice Diversion

<p><b>Criminal Justice Diversion Expansion for Rural Communities</b></p> <p>Provide funding to support the development, implementation, and sustainment of CIT in up to six rural communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A CIT coordinator in each community</li><li>• Funding for training, including law enforcement training</li><li>• CIT assessment sites in each community</li></ul> <p>Provide funding to support creation of diversion programs at Intercept 2 (initial detention/initial court appearance) in up to six rural communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staffing (clinical team lead, case manager, criminal justice liaison)</li><li>• Access to treatment</li></ul>	<p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to provide DBHDS with funds to make awards to rural communities to establish CIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$657,648 for CIT training program in six communities</li><li>• \$1,925,400 for CIT assessment center in six communities</li></ul> <p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to provide DBHDS with funds to make awards to rural communities to establish Intercept 2 diversion programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$1,417,326 for six communities</li></ul>
<p><b>Forensic Discharge Planning</b></p> <p>Provide funding to make available forensic discharge planning for persons with serious mental illness upon their release from jails to allow for better coordination of care and to enhance public safety by linking individuals to needed care possibly mitigating future criminal justice involvement.</p>	<p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to fund creation of staff positions in the CSBs to provide forensic discharge planning at jails in accordance with the DBHDS report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$4,109,900 to implement at the five jails with the highest percentage of serious mental illness</li></ul>
<p><b>Virginia Housing Trust Fund</b></p> <p>Provide funding to the VHTF to increase capital investment in order to increase available rental housing. Currently, the VHTF receives \$5.5 million a year. By increasing funding to the VHTF, Permanent Supportive Housing can be expanded through capital investment. This will allow the Department of Housing and Community Development and Virginia Housing Development Authority to continue serving individuals with serious mental illness.</p>	<p>Introduce a <b>budget amendment</b> to increase funding to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund by <b>\$4.5 million per year.</b></p>