

Housing the Seriously Mentally Ill Update

Criminal Justice Diversion Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2017



Budget Language

"The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) shall develop and implement strategies, that may include potential Medicaid financing, for housing individuals with serious mental illness. DHCD shall include other agencies in the development of such strategies including the Virginia Housing Development Authority, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, and Department of Social Services. The Department shall also include stakeholders whose constituents have an interest in expanding supportive housing for people with serious mental illness, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness Virginia, the Virginia Housing Alliance and the Virginia Sheriff's Association. An annual report on such strategies and the progress on implementation shall be provided to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by the first day of each General Assembly Regular Session."

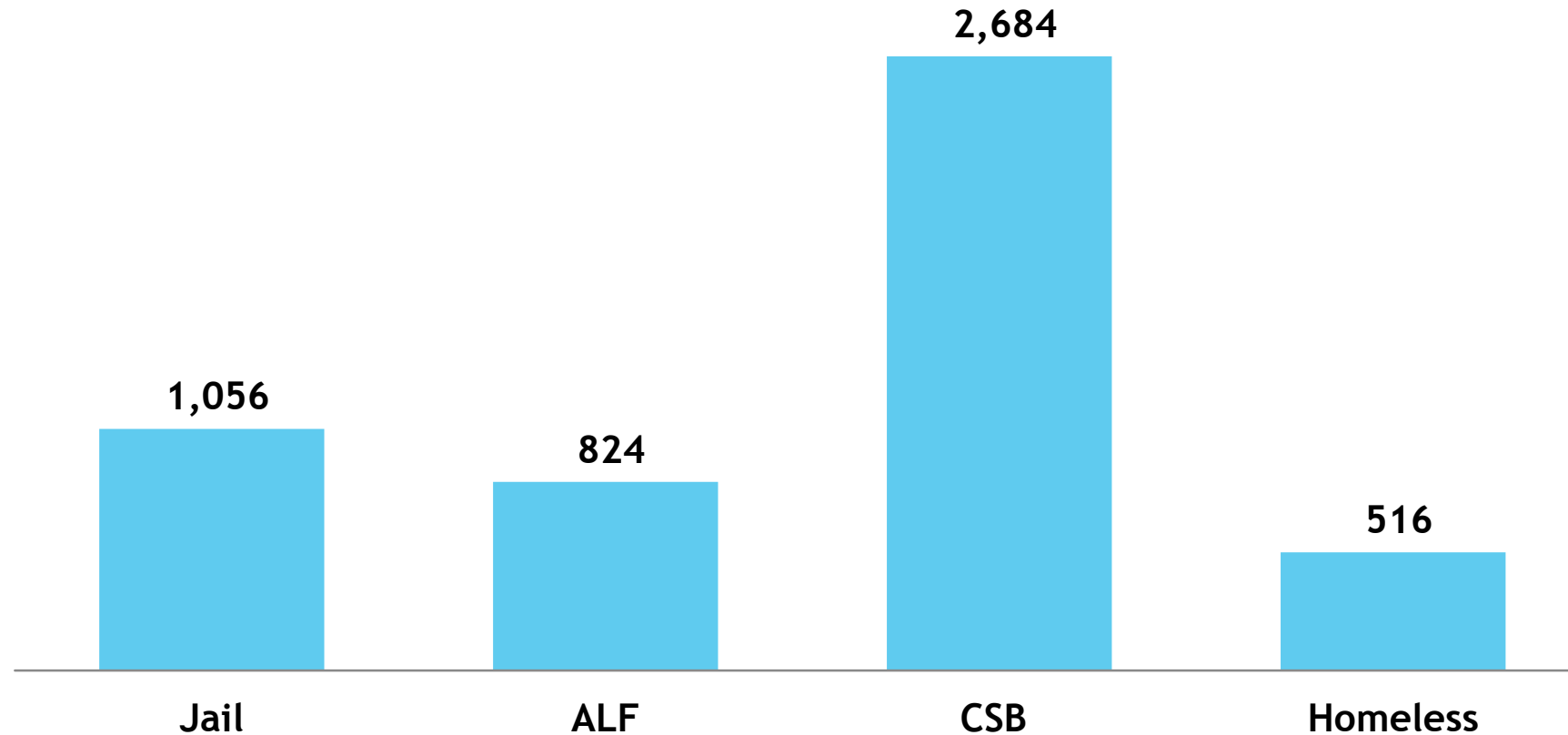
Housing the Seriously Mentally Ill Process

- ▶ Through funds provided by VHDA, hired a consultant firm - Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) - to facilitate the process
- ▶ Developed the “Housing the SMI Population Strategy Group” comprised of state agencies and stakeholders identified in the budget language as well as additional ones including the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Association of CSBs to name a few
- ▶ Meetings held on July 11, September 14, and November 27, 2017
- ▶ Between meetings TAC conducted individual interviews with many of the state agencies and stakeholders
- ▶ Draft strategies presented to the Strategy Group and will be posted on DHCD’s website later this week
- ▶ A webinar is being scheduled to share the draft strategies with stakeholder groups’ constituencies
- ▶ A report outlining the strategies will be submitted to Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by the first day of the 2018 General Assembly Session

Observations

- ▶ Need for Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Populations within jails, adult living facilities, community services boards and homelessness system, it is projected that over 5,000 more units of PSH are needed
- ▶ Key Components
 - Housing Unit (physical structure)
 - Rental Assistance
 - Supportive Services
 - Community Capacity/Infrastructure
- ▶ Investing in PSH produces positive outcomes for:
 - The individual with SMI - stabilizing housing, improving ability to secure and maintain employment resulting in a higher quality of life
 - Criminal Justice and Hospital Systems - reduces the number of days spent in jail or in the hospital which results in cost savings for those systems and increases their capacity

Additional PSH Units Needed by SMI Population



Data Sources

- Jail: Mental Illness in Jails Report (Virginia Compensation Board, 2015)
- ALF: Auxiliary Grant payments to localities (Virginia DARS, 2016)
- CSB: CSB CCS_3 data submissions (DBHDS, 2016)
- Homeless: The State of Permanent Supportive Housing in Virginia, 2015 (Virginia Housing Alliance)

Expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing

Implications for State Agencies

▶ DMAS

- Existing Medicaid Services
- New Medicaid Services
 - To cover a full array of transition and tenancy support services for Medicaid and GAP enrollees with SMI, Virginia would have to address a myriad of issues

▶ DBHDS

- Continue to emphasize the role of PSH
- Examine current Discharge Assistance Program utilization and explore strategies to align this funding with other housing initiatives
- Expand current, and explore additional, options to fund housing transition and tenancy support services for uninsured individuals

▶ DHCD and VHDA

- DHCD and VHDA will continue to serve special populations, including SMI, within existing housing efforts
- Provide education and training to strengthen housing developers' ability to successfully apply for funding to develop PSH for individuals with SMI

Expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing

▶ Systems Supports

- Expand the existing interagency, collaborative infrastructure to include the Strategy Group to address the housing needs of the SMI population
- Explore incorporation of PSH - SMI needs in planning processes, e.g. Consolidated Planning, PHA Plan and Olmstead Plan
- Ensure CSBs and providers in all regions of the state have the opportunity to participate in a PSH Learning Collaborative

▶ Public/Private Partnerships

- Engage health care systems in investing in housing to improve health
- Engage the philanthropic community

Next Steps

- ▶ Draft strategies to be posted on DHCD's website
- ▶ Webinar to share the draft strategies with stakeholder groups' constituencies
- ▶ Report outlining the strategies will be submitted to Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by the first day of the 2018 General Assembly Session

Questions & Answers

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