

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

April 16, 2015

**General Assembly Building, Senate Room A
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present: Senator R. Creigh Deeds (Chairman), Delegate Robert B. Bell, III (Vice Chairman), Senator Janet D. Howell, Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Senator George L. Barker, Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., Delegate Vivian E. Watts, Delegate T. Scott Garrett, Delegate Luke E. Torian, Delegate Joseph R. Yost

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century (the Joint Subcommittee) met on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia.

2015 Legislative Update

Staff gave an overview of mental health–related legislation from the 2015 Session of the General Assembly. Of particular interest to the Joint Subcommittee were its three recommendations adopted on December 16, 2014, resulting in the following bills:

- **HB 1693 Bell, Robert B. / SB 1263 Deeds**

Civil admission process; alternative transportation. Recommendation adopted at December 16, 2014, meeting—(based on recommendation #10 of Governor's Taskforce on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response). Both bills passed House and Senate unanimously (Chapters 297 and 308, Acts of Assembly of 2015).

- **HB 2118 Cline / SB 1265 Deeds**

Acute psychiatric bed registry; frequency of updating. Recommendation adopted at December 16, 2014, meeting—(based on recommendation #25 of Governor's Taskforce on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response). Both bills passed House and Senate unanimously (Chapters 34 and 116, Acts of Assembly of 2015).

- **SB 1264 Deeds**

Law-enforcement access to involuntary admission and incapacity information. Recommendation adopted at December 16, 2014, meeting—(based on recommendation #14 of Governor's Taskforce on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response). Passed House and Senate unanimously (Chapter 540, Acts of Assembly of 2015).

Joint Subcommittee Discussion

The members of the Joint Subcommittee discussed the work plan for the remainder of 2105. Senator Deeds discussed the need to determine what mental health services should be provided by the Commonwealth. After the Joint Subcommittee identifies those services, it can then examine how to provide the services and how to pay for them.

The members discussed meeting dates and locations for the 2015 interim and agreed that, in order to fully understand the issues, the Joint Subcommittee has a duty to tour mental health

facilities across the state. The Joint Subcommittee therefore agreed to hold three two-day meetings—June 30–July 1, September 24–25, and November 12–13, 2015—in various locations across the Commonwealth.

The members agreed to hold the June 30–July 1 meeting in the Staunton area, at which time they will tour the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents and hear more about other mental health studies conducted over the years. In addition to the full subcommittee meeting at that time, the three work groups will also meet. The September and November meetings will be held in the Northern Virginia and Tidewater areas.

Public Comment

Senator Deeds asked if any members of the public would like to speak. After receiving public comment, Senator Deeds adjourned the meeting.