



Help Kids with Mental Illness

The Problem - Virginia fails to provide adequate children's mental health services.

- **1 in 5 children has a diagnosable mental illness**ⁱ and about 100,000 Virginia children have a serious emotional disturbance.ⁱⁱ
- Virginia's shortage of services means kids wait an average of 3-12 weeks for help – if they can access it at all.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Lack of treatment often leads to expensive hospitalizations – or even jail time.^{iv}

The Good News - Lawmakers can help kids by supporting two common-sense solutions.

Solution 1: Five Crisis Response Projects

Regional mobile crisis team and stabilization unit with highly trained clinical staff who could intervene 24/7 to defuse volatile situations in homes, schools and other places. *The Washington Post* calls this a "modest fix that would mark an enormous improvement in the state's spotty services."^v

- Helps avoid costly hospitalization
- Keeps kids with their families
- Lynchburg area has a mobile team with an 81% success rate^{vi}

Solution 2: Five Child Psychiatry Projects

1 child psychiatrist per region who would treat kids and train and consult with children's health providers.

- Addresses long waits caused by child specialist shortage
- Gives training to pediatricians, nurses and others on front lines
- Expands child psychiatrists' reach

Senators - How to Help:

Support These Budget Amendments:

- ✓ Item 315 #7s – Crisis Response Projects, \$16.3 million GF per year
- ✓ Item 315 #6s – Child Psychiatry Projects, \$1.4 million GF per year
(Patron **Hanger**, Co-Patron **Howell**)

Delegates - How to Help:

Support These Budget Amendments:

- ✓ Item 315 #4h and #8h – Crisis Response Projects, \$16.3 million GF per year
(Patrons **O'Bannon, Englin**, Co-Patrons Ingram, Richard Bell, Brink, Hope, Landes, Watts, Herring)
- ✓ Item 315 #3h – Child Psychiatry Projects, \$1.4 million GF per year
(Patron **O'Bannon**, Co-Patrons Ingram, Richard Bell, Brink, Hope, Landes, Watts)

Gov. Bob McDonnell took the lead with Executive Amendment Item 315 #1g, which provides \$500,000 GF per year for mobile crisis teams. Let's build on this to ensure crisis response services are available 24/7 in each region and staffed by highly qualified clinicians.



Campaign Partners

Steering Committee Members

Voices for Virginia's Children
Mental Health America - Virginia

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Virginia
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

Partner Organizations:

Alleghany Highlands Community Services
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - Virginia Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics - Virginia Chapter
Beacon Tree Foundation
Charlottesville League of Therapists
Chesterfield Community Services Board
ChildSavers
City of Virginia Beach, Child and Youth Services
Colonial Services Board
Commonwealth Parenting (Richmond)
Concern Hotline (Winchester)
Crossroads Counseling Center
Extra Special Parents
FACES of Virginia Families (Foster, Adoption and Kinship Organization)
Fairfax Partnership for Youth
FAM Richmond (Families Are Magic)
Families & Allies of Virginia's Youth
Hallmark Youthcare Richmond
Higher Horizons Head Start and Early Head Start
Influential Family Services, Inc.
Jannie Holloway-Ashburne, LPC
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) in Northern Virginia
JustChildren, a program of the Legal Aid Justice Center
League of Therapists
Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses
Mathews County Schools
The Madeline Centre (Lynchburg)

Medical Home Plus (Richmond)
Mental Health America of Augusta
Mental Health America of Central Virginia
Mental Health America of Roanoke Valley
Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center
M.T. Sorrell - Danville Arc
National Association of Social Workers- Virginia Chapter
National Institute of Family Counseling
Psychiatric Society of Virginia
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
The Rodgers' Initiative for Children's Health
ROSMY
Strategic Therapy Associates
Tucker Pavilion (Richmond)
Twochair Solutions, Inc.
Valley Community Services Board
Virginia Association of Counties
Virginia Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Virginia College of Emergency Physicians
Virginia Counselors Association
Virginia Education Association
Virginia Head Start Association
Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
Virginia Municipal League
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Virginia Premier Health Plan
Virginia PTA
Virginia School Counselors Association
Virginia Treatment Center for Children
White Oak School, Danville Arc
Wise Enterprise, Inc.
World Federation for Mental Health
Youth Advocate Programs

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¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1999). Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General. Chapter 3, Section 1. Retrieved from <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/pdfs/c3.pdf>

² Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Draft Comprehensive State Plan 2010-2016. Retrieved from <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/documents/reports/opd-StatePlan2010thru2016.pdf>

³ Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Item 304.Q - Final Report: A Plan for Community-Based Children's Behavioral Health Services in Virginia.

⁴ Voices for Virginia's Children. (2011). Children's Mental Health in Virginia: System Deficiencies and Unknown Outcomes.

⁵ Editorial "Help for troubled youths," *The Washington Post*, January 12, 2012.

⁶ Virginia Association of Community Services Boards 2011 Annual Report, p. 16. Retrieved from http://www.vacsb.org/pdfs/VACSB_2011_Annual_Report.pdf