



**For immediate release**

**October 11, 2010**

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**EVENT:** Press Conference October 12, 2010, 3:00 PM  
**Location:** General Assembly Building, Press Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
**Topic:** **Campaign calls for reinvesting funds in children's mental health services**

Richmond, VA: **The Campaign for Children's Mental Health will call on Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly to reinvest savings from the Comprehensive Services Act into community-based children's mental health services.** The Comprehensive Services Act, which serves at-risk children including those with mental health problems, reports a savings of approximately \$19 million in pool funds for FY10, \$12 million of which is state general funds. These savings represent a decrease in spending from FY09, largely due to a shift in policy of placing more children in community-based care rather than in residential settings.

"The Campaign believes that this \$12 million in savings ought to stay in our communities to serve children with mental health problems. One in five children has a mental health disorder, and only 20% of those are receiving the treatment they need," stated Campaign coordinator Margaret Nimmo Crowe.

[\*A Plan for Community-Based Children's Behavioral Health Services in Virginia\*](#), the just-released interim report by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, details the deficiencies and inconsistencies in mental health services for children across the Commonwealth and prioritizes developing a base level of key services in every area. "Reinvesting the savings into services that produce dividends for families and the Commonwealth makes sense," commented Mary Ann Bergeron, executive director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.

The Campaign is a three-year advocacy initiative sponsored by Voices for Virginia's Children and supported by 60 organizational partners. The goal of the Campaign is to make mental health services more available and accessible to the children who need them.

"When community based services are not available, everyone loses. The child loses reaching his or her full potential, the family loses having a sense of normalcy, and society loses because it incurs higher short-term costs as well as the long-term expenses of caring for greater needs than necessary," said Trudy Ellis, parent of a child with mental health needs.

More information about the Campaign for Children's Mental Health can be found at [www.1in5kids.org](http://www.1in5kids.org).

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