

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM: **THE MISSING LINK IS HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

To successfully reform Virginia's mental health system, we must ensure that its clients have health care coverage.

- An estimated 77,000 uninsured adult Virginians suffer from mental illness¹. About 40,000 of them have a serious illness such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder².
- Many uninsured Virginians with mental health disorders go without the care they need.

Lawmakers have an opportunity to provide health insurance to low-income adults and make Virginia a leader in mental health care.

- The proposed Marketplace Virginia plan would infuse \$1.2 billion of much-needed new resources for Virginia's community mental health services between FY15 and FY22³.
- It will also infuse \$426 million in the same years for traditional psychiatric services such as outpatient appointments, prescriptions and inpatient hospitalization⁴.
- About 22,000 adults served by the Community Services Boards* are uninsured. It's important to remember that thousands more with mental health disorders are not receiving care.

"Developing bipolar disorder changed my life. I had to stop working full-time and lost my health insurance.

Health care coverage would give me the care I need and hopefully manage my illness successfully for years to come."

- Jennifer Miller, Fairfax

People with coverage can get regular mental health care and medications, which help them stay healthy and avoid crisis. Preventing crisis situations can save money for taxpayers.

- Hospitalizations and emergency treatment options can traumatize patients and cost taxpayers a lot of money.
- Reducing crisis situations lessens the burden on the hospital and criminal justice systems.

BY THE NUMBERS

14%
of the nation's 7 million
mental health emergency
department visits are made
by uninsured patients.⁵

77,000
UNINSURED ADULTS HAVE
MENTAL ILLNESS IN VIRGINIA.

6 IN 10
ADULTS
living with mental illness
went without health care in
the past year, largely because
they don't have insurance.⁶



*Virginia's Community Services Boards are the point of entry into the publicly funded system of services for mental health, intellectual disability and substance abuse.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.) Enrollment under the Medicaid Expansion and Health Insurance Exchanges. A Focus on Those with Behavioral Health Conditions in each State. <http://www.samhsa.gov/healthreform/enrollment.aspx>

² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.) Enrollment under the Medicaid Expansion and Health Insurance Exchanges. A Focus on Those with Behavioral Health Conditions in each State. <http://www.samhsa.gov/healthreform/enrollment.aspx>

³ Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Fact Sheet; Estimated Fiscal Impact, Department of Medical Assistance Services, January 22, 2014

⁴ Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Fact Sheet; PwC, Covering the Uninsured PMPM Estimates, January 29, 2014, prepared for Department of Medical Assistance Services

⁵ Pamela L. Owens, Ph.D., et al, July 2010. "Mental Health and Substance Abuse-Related Emergency Department Visits among Adults," Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

⁶ Medicaid Expansion and Mental Health Care, National Alliance on Mental Illness, May 2013