



The Campaign for Children's Mental Health

Please support budget amendment **Item 308 #6h (Yost)** to add \$2.5 million GF in FY16 to existing regional funding for community-based mental health crisis response services and expansion of child psychiatry.

The Problem:

- An estimated 130,000 children and adolescents in Virginia suffer from a serious mental health disorder; psychiatric crises untreated in the community lead to costly hospitalizations that separate children from their families. (Virginia Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services)
- Half of all mental illness begins by age 14; strengthening Virginia's mental health system for children is a critical part of overall system reform. (National Institutes of Mental Health)
- Significant increases in admissions to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents in 2014 means that demand for children's crisis services is increasing; now is not the time to let up!

Funding is working:

- New funding the last three years has increased access to crisis response and child psychiatry services in select areas of all five regions of the Commonwealth and enabled these outcomes:
 - Reduced wait times to see a child psychiatrist from an average of 12 weeks to 1-2weeks (or even sooner in crisis).
 - 2189 children benefited from additional child psychiatry in FY14, either from telepsychiatry (592), face-to-face (1329), or psychiatric consultation with a primary care provider (268). Faster access reduces unnecessary hospitalizations and allows for more accurate diagnosis and treatment.

Services Exist but Capacity is Limited:

Region I-Lynchburg/Central VA Area – 818 children received children's crisis services in FY14, a 146% increase from FY13. Mobile crisis services were expanded to serve non-Medicaid kids.

Region II-NOVA – Two mobile-crisis teams available 24/7/365 to respond to crises experienced by children and their families throughout the region.

Region III- Southwest Area – Access to children's crisis clinicians and child psychiatry in rural areas for the first time.

Region IV- Richmond Area—Six-bed crisis ambulatory and residential stabilization unit served 168 children in FY14.

Region V-Hampton Roads—Urgent care child psychiatry center provides rapid assessment and crisis intervention comprehensive evaluations for children ages 5 to 17. Mobile crisis clinicians available at some CSBs.

Campaign for Children's Mental Health

Steering Committee:

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
Angel Fund
Beacon Tree Foundation
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
Elk Hill
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
Full Circle Grief Center
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
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
New Legacy Youth Services
Psychiatric Society of Virginia
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
The Rodgers' Initiative for Children's Health ROSMY
Strategic Therapy Associates
Tucker Pavilion (Richmond)
Valley Community Services Board
Virginia Alliance for School Counseling
Virginia Association of Counties
Virginia Association of School Nurses
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



Contact: Ashley Everette, ashley@vakids.org or Margaret Nimmo Crowe, margaret@vakids.org, 804-649-0184