



The Campaign for Children's Mental Health

Please support budget amendment **Items 308 #1s (Hanger) and #8s (Howell)** 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



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