

PRIORITIZE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

ADDRESS PRESCHOOL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION BY CREATING AN ECMH CONSULTATION MODEL



Recent data indicates that suspension and expulsion occurs more often in early childhood programs than in K-12 education.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) has demonstrated impacts for improving children's social skills, reducing teacher stress and turnover, strengthening child-adult relationships and preventing preschool suspensions. Adopting a statewide ECMHC model for all children (0-5) in childcare, will give early educators and families resources to address challenging behaviors. A recent study from the National Center for Children in Poverty found that 63% of Virginia preschool teachers identified access to ECMHC as a top priority.



REQUEST: Support HJ51 (Del. Sickles): A resolution to study the feasibility of implementing a statewide early childhood mental health consultation program available to children (0-5) in all public and private early care and education programs.

MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS CAN START EARLY IN CHILDHOOD.



In Virginia **OVER HALF** of all children with public health insurance who are diagnosed with a mental health condition are under the **AGE OF 12.**

ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SHORTAGES



In Virginia, there is a critical shortage of licensed behavioral health professionals available to treat children and adolescents in need of care. Workforce shortages are exacerbated by high turnover, an aging workforce, and low reimbursement rates.



REQUEST: Support the Governor's budget that increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health providers to the equivalent of 110 percent of 2019 Medicare rates for these services.

Community Services Boards (CSBs) continue to struggle with a workforce shortage and high staff turnover. A student loan repayment program specific to behavioral health safety net providers will make the CSBs a more desirable choice for employment.



REQUEST: Create a student loan repayment program specifically for behavioral health providers.

ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SHORTAGES



Improve access to children's mental health services through continued implementation of STEP-VA services.



REQUEST: Provide the additional necessary funding to partially implement the following STEP-VA services: outpatient mental health services, veterans services, peer support services and mobile crisis teams.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT IS LIMITED IN VIRGINIA.

2 IN 3

of Virginia's children



who experienced a major depressive episode did not receive any mental health treatment.

EXPAND VMAP ACCESS ACROSS VIRGINIA



SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PRIMARY CARE BY BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM (VMAP)

VMAP is a new integrated care pediatric program that improves access to behavioral health services for children and adolescents through enhanced pediatric training, psychiatric consultations, tele-health, and care navigation. Partially funded in 2019, additional funds are needed to build capacity and expand access to all regions of the state.



REQUEST: Support the Governor's budget that invests \$5.45 million to fully fund state-wide implementation of the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP)