



COALITION FOR VIRGINIANS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

2025 East Main Street, Suite 107, Richmond, VA 23223

2009 - 2010 Legislative Priorities

Calling Everyone Who Has Or Who Cares About Someone Who Has A Mental or Developmental Disability!

Despite the difficult fiscal picture in Virginia, individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, co-occurring conditions, intellectual and developmental disabilities cannot be forgotten. The Coalition supports the Governor's efforts to limit cuts for community services in his proposed budget, however in an under funded system any reduction in funds hurts Virginians with disabilities - especially when the demand for services continues to increase

The Coalition urges policymakers to:

- Provide funding to meet the deficit for Part C/Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers. Funds are needed for both years of the biennium.
- Provide funding for diversion from mental hospitals for children, adolescents and adults using Local Inpatient Purchase of Services (LIPOS) funds to provide access to local hospital beds. In addition, crisis stabilization and support services for children and youth are critically needed. Funds are needed for both years of the biennium.
- Restore funding for 200 Medicaid Mental Retardation (MR) Waiver slots that were slated to begin in April 2009.
- Provide funding for an additional 200 Medicaid MR Waiver slots for a total of 400 in FY2010 to meet emergencies for those on the urgent care wait list.
- Provide funding for 120 Medicaid Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver slots. There is an urgent need for services, especially since no additional slots were available last year.
- Restore funding to continue the full Medicaid waiver congregate rate increase of 3.6% included in last year's budget (proposed budget reduces it by 1.6%). A higher rate is essential for successful transitions from facility to community settings.
- Provide funding to enable the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) to serve all eligible individuals who need training and support services to become employed. Three out of every four Virginians with disabilities are currently unemployed.
- Restore funding for Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) and Extended Employment Services (EES) to increase independence and promote self-sufficiency.
- Ensure that any increase in Federal Medicaid matching funds (FMAP) is retained in the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) budget and allocated proportionally among Medicaid programs.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Mental Health America of Virginia, NAMI Virginia, Parents & Associates of the Institutionalized Retarded (PAIR), People First of Virginia, Psychiatric Society of Virginia, Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia (SAARA), The Arc of Virginia, VaACCSES, Virginia Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Virginia Federation of Families, Virginia Network of Private Providers (VNPP), Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), Virginia Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, Virginia Rehabilitation Association