



Virginia Network of Private Providers, Inc.

Building Meaningful Lives for Extraordinary People

<http://vnppinc.org>

House Appropriations-HHR Sub-committee

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An association for persons or organizations with an interest in or that provide support for persons who have mental illness, developmental delay or substance use disorder, and who are licensed by or funded by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

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We support the initiative described in the Governor's Budget (#306 CCCC) for the Waiver Redesign which accomplishes most of those objectives that we have been working toward for the past eight years!

I should also note that while we support the Governor's request for the waiver slots required by the DOJ Settlement Agreement, and the reserve slots to help with the functionality of the new Waivers, it does too little to address the Waiting List; we strongly support the member amendment requests for additional slots for the Individual & Family Support Waiver and for meeting the unmet needs for 1,700 individuals currently "waiting" on the EDCD Waiver.

The key elements of the Waiver Redesign are

- the integration of the ID and DD populations,
- creation of a single "needs" based Waiting List,
- the more realistic categorization of that list into three "priority" categories,
- the restructuring of the rates to incent smaller, more integrated supports, and
- the addition of several much needed new services.

The focus that we must have now is on the implementation of the rather overwhelming list of tasks which will be required to ensure that on July 1, 2016 there is a seamless transition to the new Waivers without interruption in services or disruption for the providers who must make all this work!

While we appreciate the interest by DBHDS in forecasting a less costly system in the future. We cannot accurately predict all of the system change that will occur as a result of the redesign of the Waiver – anything, at this point, is simply speculation. We believe that two to three years of solid data will show the impact of the redesign and that the "system" of care will look much different by June 2019.

If, for example, the new independent living services are actually so popular that slots which allow a residential group home option sit vacant for lack of interest, then it might be reasonable to suggest "moving the slots" to the less expensive Waiver. To predict the 1,000 slots could be "converted" without data to support the premise seems a bit reckless.

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Now, we have just over five months to accomplish a huge task! It is critical that DMAS and DBHDS, together with key stakeholders, begin the implementation process sooner rather than later; we cannot wait for a DBHDS to purchase and implement a new data system, nor can we postpone convening working groups to get started on the many tasks ahead.

Part of the anxiety over what changes are coming continues to be lack of concise communication; we encourage both DMAS and DBHDS to narrow the focus of all communication to what can be expected on July 1st and to initiate targeted correspondence to families, case managers and providers.

We stand ready to help in any way; it is in everyone's best interest for the implementation to go smoothly!

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our perspective. I am happy to answer any questions.

Presented by:
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