



Virginia Department of  
Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Services

# DBHDS Update: Hospital Census

House Appropriations Committee

October 21, 2019

**Mira Signer**

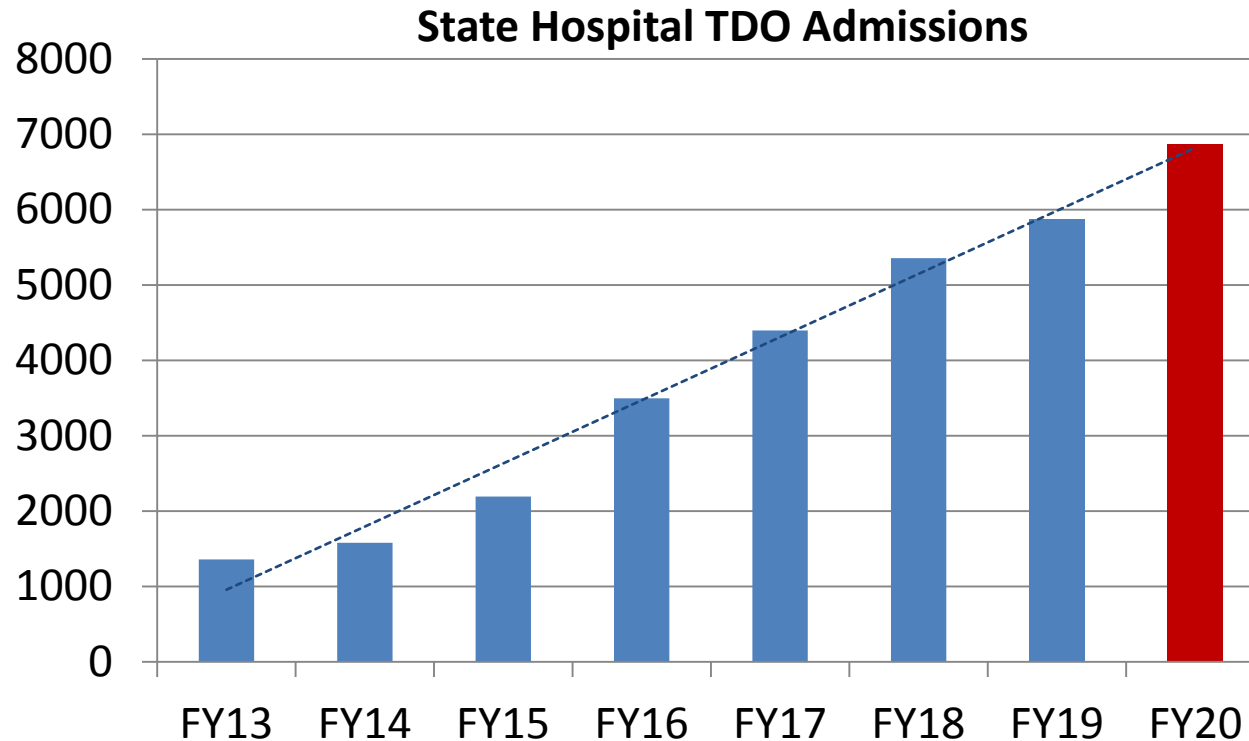
Acting Commissioner

Department of Behavioral Health and  
Developmental Services

# Agenda

- Hospital census update
- Catawba State Hospital temporary beds update
- Western State Hospital addition
- Current efforts to address the census issues

# State Hospital Changes Due To Last Resort Legislation

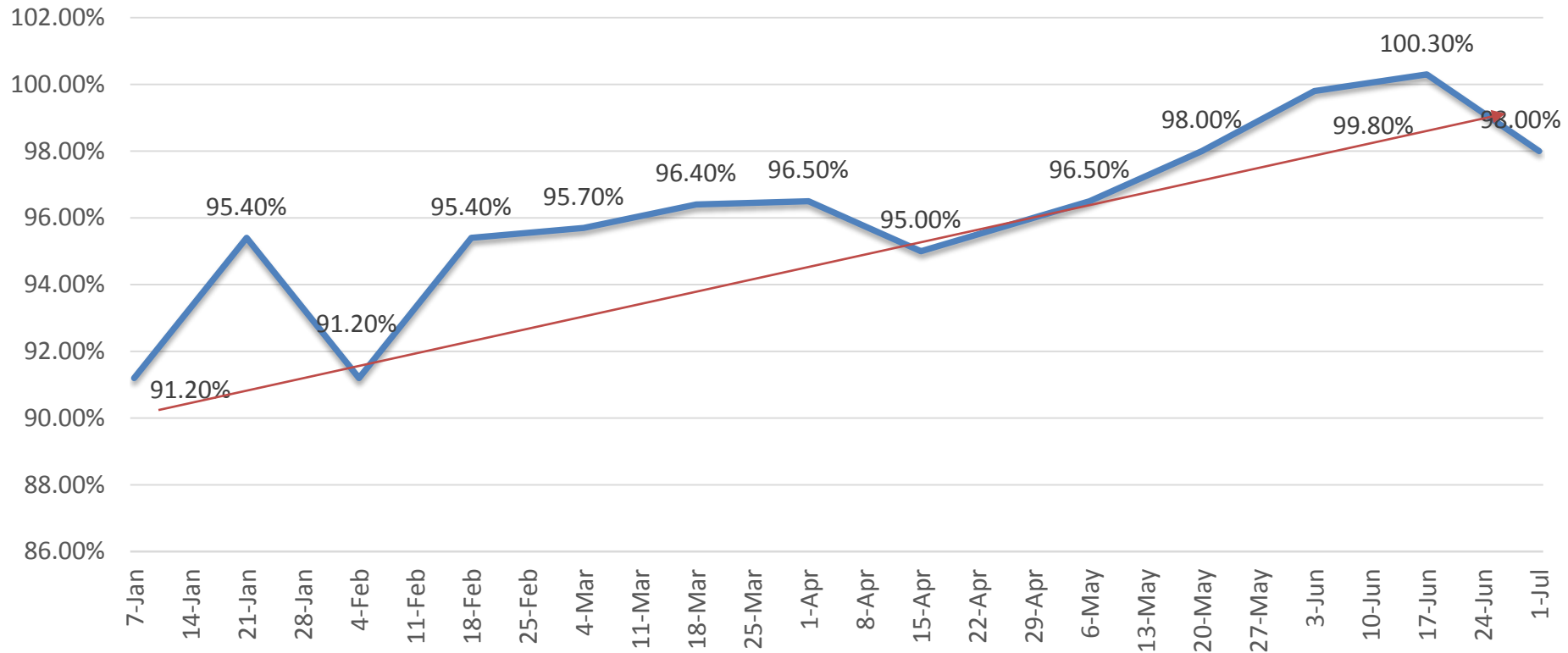


“Last resort” legislation was implemented July 1, 2014. Since FY 2013:

- Civil TDO admissions have increased **333%**
- Forensic admissions have increased by **199%**
- Medical care costs have grown by more than **90%**

# CY 2019 State Hospitals Census Trends Resulting in Decision to Add Beds At Catawba

## Percent of Adult and Geriatric Beds Filled in State Hospitals

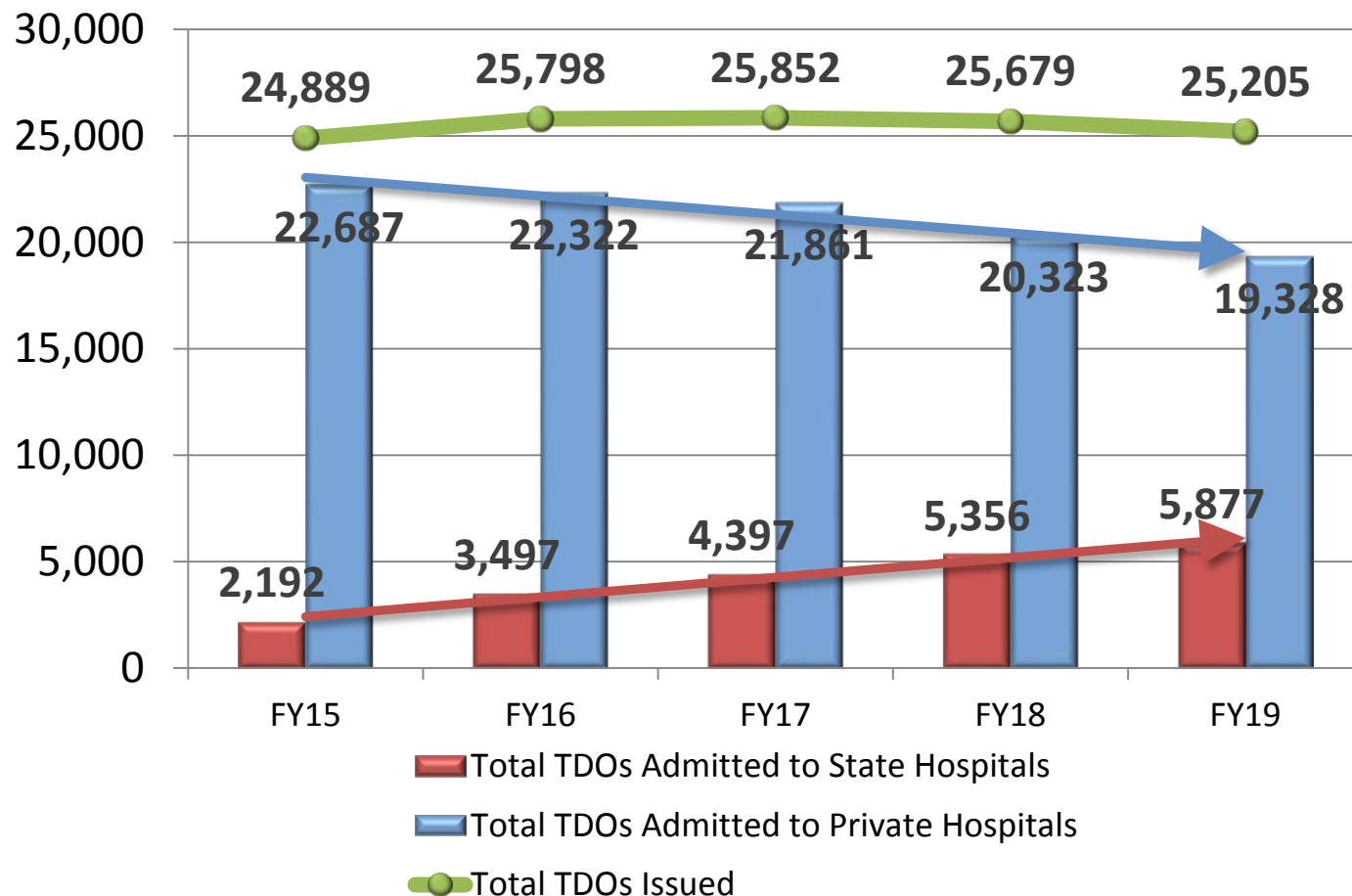


As of September 16, 2019, the state hospitals were operating at 101% capacity

# DBHDS Must Continue to Meet Statutory Obligations

- 37.2-809 requires DBHDS hospitals to admit all individuals under a Temporary Detention Order (TDO) at 8 hours if no suitable bed can be found in a private hospital or other facility
- 19.2-169.2 requires DBHDS hospitals to admit incompetent defendants for treatment to restore competency to stand trial within 10 days of receipt of court order
- These requirements persist despite DBHDS hospitals operating at an **average** capacity of 96% or more and recent acceleration of growth in census

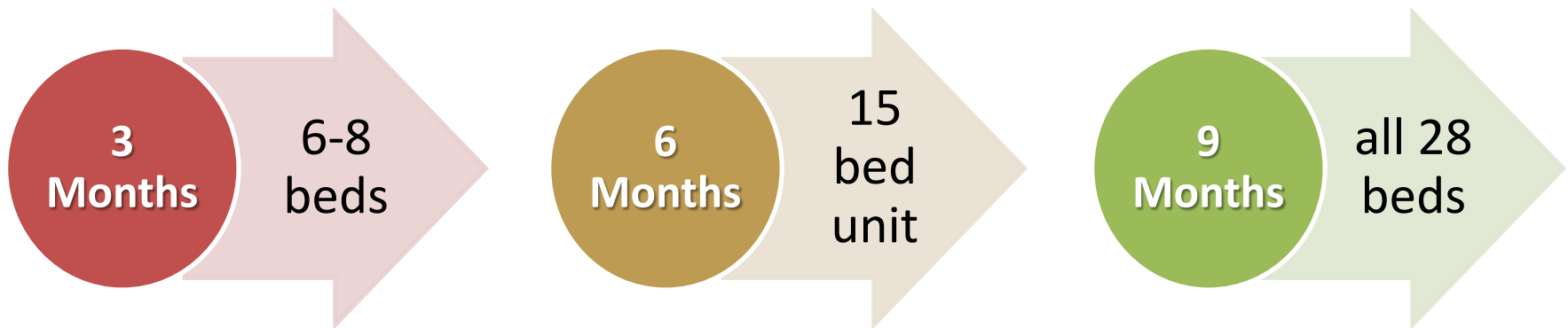
# Statewide TDOs and Hospital Admission Trends



- **70%** of admissions to state hospitals are civil TDOs.
- **800 to 1,000** additional individuals admitted each year to state hospitals.
- Use 30 more beds each year.
- Funded bed use = 97%
- Staffed bed use = 127%.

# Temporary Beds at Catawba

- This summer, DBHDS initiated action to add 56 temporary beds to Catawba Hospital's current operating capacity in order to continue to meet its legal obligations under 37.2-809 and 19.2-169.2
- 56 beds will be added; 28 in FY 2020 and 28 beds in FY 2021
- DBHDS using \$4.15M of special funds in FY20
- DBHDS will request additional general funds of \$9.3 million in FY 21 and \$10.3 million in FY 22 to operate these beds
- Timeline (following approval/funding and as staff are hired, trained and deployed):



# Temporary Beds at Catawba

## Cost

<b>\$4.15M</b> redesignation of DBHDS special funds in FY 2020	Operating expenses including onboarding of full time staff and supplies
<b>\$9.3M</b> budget request in FY 2021 and <b>\$10.3M</b> in FY 2022	
<b>\$1M</b> redesignation of DBHDS special funds in FY 2020	Anti-ligature improvements to existing physical space

## *Catawba Cost Comparison Among State Hospitals*

- Existing, unused patient bedrooms can be readily be prepared for patients
- Adequate treatment areas to accommodate additional patients
- Staffing capabilities to serve older adults
- Vacancy rate for psychiatry and nursing staff is relatively low compared to other state hospitals; more robust recruitment/retention strategies for direct care workers



# Hospital Wide Capital And Infrastructure Needs

**These are hospital wide projects and not directly related to the opening of the 56 temporary beds.**

## **In Progress:**

- CCTV/Access control system
- Electrical distribution system replacement
- Life Safety Code – Anti-ligature environment
- Main hospital exterior resurface

## **Future Projects:**

- HVAC upgrade for all patient care areas
- Water filtration system replacement/upgrade
- Electrical upgrade/additional areas connected to generator
- Buildings 16 & 73 roof replacement and insulation
- Upgrade interior finishes
- Patient bathroom renovations

# Western State Hospital Addition

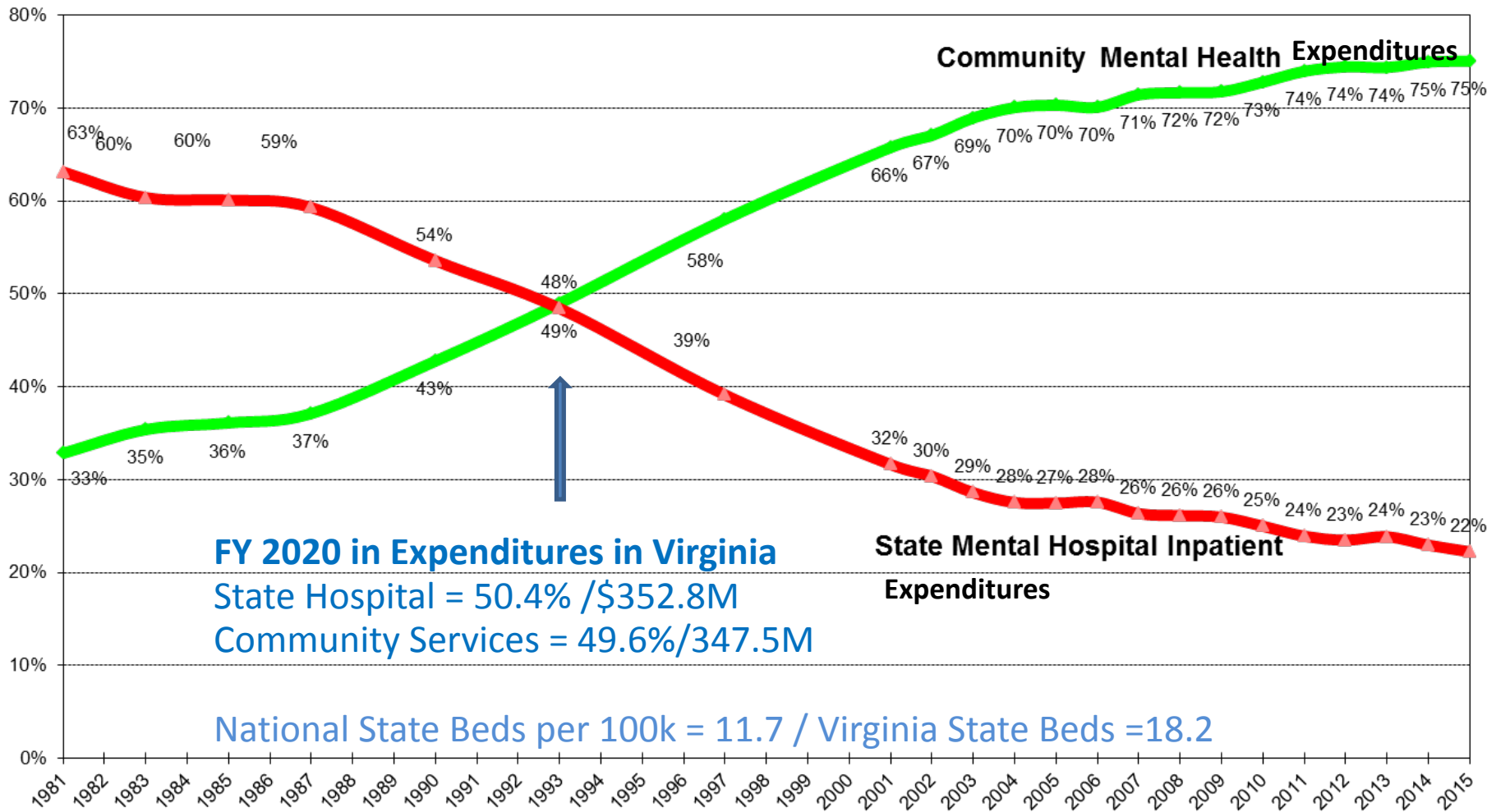
- 56 bed addition to Western State Hospital
- Original Completion Date: July 2020
- Estimated New Completion Date: April 2021
- Additional time required:
  - DBHDS Architecture & Engineering staff transition
  - The design for the new wing was based upon the existing WSH and did not comply with current building codes nor the building codes effective September 2019
  - Given cost and scope of the project, the expansion was considered a new stand alone project that required a full design phase
- DBHDS recognizes Division of Engineering & Building's collaboration in addressing and resolving these issues

# Addressing Census Pressures

- Building community capacity - STEP VA
- Continuing efforts around supportive housing, PACT
- Collaborating with CSBs to consider/expand temporary use of crisis stabilization units and other alternatives
- Anticipated completion of the Western State Hospital expansion (end of FY 2021)
- Encouraging private hospitals to use their estimated 25% capacity to alleviate census burden
- Holiday weekends from May – September: special “call to action” from Commissioner to CSBs and private hospitals
- TDO Work Group (SB 1488): short and long-term recommendations around right-sizing, evaluation process, emergency custody order period

# National Expenditures for State Hospitals and Community-Based Services as a Percent of Total Expenditures: FY'81 to FY'15

## How Virginia's FY 2020 Expenditures Compare to National Trends



# Conclusion

- Not the preferred direction of Virginia's system, but considered an emergent necessity
- These beds are considered temporary and would be in place until long-range efforts to slow the state hospital census growth are deployed