

From the Commissioner's Desk

July 3, 2014

WELCOME

Welcome to another monthly edition of "From the Commissioner's Desk." June has been an extremely busy month! Below is a brief snapshot of the critical updates and accomplishments during June on issues affecting the people we serve. Without doubt, our daily efforts have extended far beyond the major updates included below. I am grateful for all of the work being done to improve, enrich and transform our system.

MAJOR UPDATES

Extension of Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) Closure Date – After recent discussions with staff, NVTC parents, area CSBs and providers, and using experience gained with the closure of Southside Virginia Training Center, DBHDS decided to extend the closure date of NVTC one year to March 2016. This one-year extension will allow more time to further develop community homes and services in Northern Virginia to serve the needs of the transitioning NVTC residents. In order to fund this community-based expansion, the DBHDS Commissioner declared the NVTC property surplus so that it may be sold. The sale of the property will provide funds to meet needs in the area so people in the training centers can move to more personalized homes and be a part of their own communities. Virginia law requires that sale proceeds be placed in the Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund. This will help ensure funds are available for the further development of housing and support options in Northern Virginia. Closing the training center better aligns Virginia's services for people with developmental disabilities with federal laws and regulations. It also allows the Commonwealth the ability to better address the needs of the 8,500 people who have elected not to live in institutional settings but instead choose to be on waiting lists for community-based waiver services closer to home.

Update on Soft Launch of Civil Commitment Laws – Thank you to all our system partners who collaborated with DBHDS during the past two weeks to successfully implement a "soft launch" of the legislative changes to the civil commitment process. Since June 16th, all of the safety net partners, including CSBs, state facilities, law enforcement, local hospitals, and many others have been operating as if all aspects (with the exception of the 8-hour emergency custody period) of the new laws have been in effect. During this time period, there were no reports of CSBs being unable to access a safety net bed for individuals. Monthly reports from the CSBs reflect a continuing reduction in the number of times an ECO has expired prior to a psychiatric bed being available for the individual. The need for medical treatment is the most frequent reason for delayed access to a psychiatric bed. DBHDS continues collect and monitor system performance data in order to best identify pressure points and operational issues. System performance data aggregated and analyzed by DBHDS include:

- TDO state hospital admissions per 100,000 by CSB
- TDO state hospital bed days per 100,000 by CSB
- Total state hospital civil bed days per 100,000 by CSB
- Total state hospital forensic bed days per 100,000 by CSB

The **January - April TDO Exception Report** is available on the DBHDS website, [here](#).

On the Road – As part of my effort to learn the Virginia system and hear concerns and perspectives from those in the field, I am trying to spend as much time as possible visiting state facilities, CSBs, providers and partners throughout the Commonwealth. My travels this month included:

- June 5 at NVTC to meet with Training Center Leadership and members of the Parent Group Board
- June 6 in Washington DC attending SAMHSA summit on Medical Education on Addictions and Addiction Treatment
- June 8 at NAMI State Convention, VCU Department of Psychiatry Residents & Fellows Graduation and at Henrico CSB CRC
- June 9 tour of Region IV REACH Program

- June 11 at Western State Hospital and CCCA
- June 13 at Piedmont CSB, Danville-Pittsylvania CSB, Southside CSB and SVMHI meeting with leadership teams and touring programs/facilities
- June 18 at Emergency Services Conference in Charlottesville
- June 25 at Hampton-Newport News CSB

DBHDS SB627 Study Group – During the 2014 Session of the General Assembly, legislation passed (SB627) that called for DBHDS to convene a workgroup to consider options for expanding the number of training centers that remain open, in whole or in part, in the Commonwealth. We understand there are stakeholders who are concerned about training center closures as well as those concerned about not having enough community capacity to meet demand. As a result, DBHDS convened the DBHDS SB627 Study Group with a range of interested stakeholders to develop comprehensive options for the Commonwealth. Through a facilitated problem solving process, review of information, discussion and collaboration, members will consider options and provide an important point of view. Our goal is for open and productive discussions with an emphasis on both safety and a full life for each person with developmental disabilities served by the Commonwealth. The first meeting of this group was held on July 2. More information can be found under “Announcements” on this webpage: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm.

Governor’s Taskforce on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response – The taskforce is continuing its work and last met on June 16, 2014. A report of the taskforce’s final recommendations is due October 1, 2014. More information can be found [here](#). Here is a meeting schedule of the remaining meetings:

- Meeting of the Four Workgroups – July 15, 2014, 1-4 p.m., Patrick Henry Building
- Full Taskforce Meeting – August 11, 2014, 1-4 p.m., Perimeter Center, Virginia Department of Health Professions

Innovations & New Ideas – Hampton-Newport News CSB – The Hampton-Newport News CSB, Youth and Family Division has for years enjoyed a creative and beneficial relationship with the Newport News Department of Human Services, Healthy Families Program. This blended team approach utilizes CSB children’s Targeted Case Management (TCM) staff integrated into the Newport News Healthy Families staff, while maintaining fidelity to the National Healthy Families model. The benefits of this approach are: staff of the CSB bring the expertise of TCM to meet the needs of the many families we jointly serve; revenue from TCM allows for a significant expansion of the program that otherwise would not occur with only local resources; ultimately, many more families receive the benefits of this nationally recognized program. Finally, with the HNNCSB’s relatively extensive child and adolescent services division, families enrolled in the Newport News Healthy Families program have unimpeded access to high quality and appropriate behavioral health services.

If you would like to highlight an innovative program or services for future editions of this newsletter, please email [Meghan McGuire](#), DBHDS communications director.

June DBHDS Press Releases & News Stories of Interest

- [Southside Virginia Training To Close Officially on June 30, 2014](#) – (June 27, 2014)
- [OP/Ed - Fifteen years later, much work remains, by Commissioner Ferguson](#) – (June 20, 2014)
- [REVIVE! Aims to Reduce Opioid-Related Deaths in Richmond Area and Southwest Virginia](#) – (June 19, 2014)
- [Youth Suicide Prevention Training Offered Online – Great Falls Connection](#) – (June 27, 2014)
- [Opiate overdose deaths prompt naloxone program in Richmond and Southwest Virginia – Daily Press](#) – (June 20, 2014)
- [Details released of Virginia’s new mental health laws – WTOP Radio](#) – (June 30, 2014)
- [Behind the yellow door, a man’s mental illness worsens – Washington Post](#) – (June 28, 2014)
- [Cost of not caring: Nowhere to go, A Manmade Disaster – USA Today](#) – (June 26, 2014)

RECENT FACTS & FIGURES

Training Center Census (July 2, 2014)

Name	July 1, 2012 Census	July 1, 2013 Census	Dec 31, 2013 Census	July 2, 2014 Census
SVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2014	201	114	57	0
NVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2016	153	135	115	107
SWVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2018	173	156	150	144
CVTC - Closure: By 6/30 2020	350	301	285	288
SEVTC - Remains open at 75 beds	106	84	81	75
Total	983	790	688	614

ID and DD Waiver Enrollment and Waiting Lists (June 6, 2014)

	ID Waiver	DD Waiver
Total Enrolled	9,915	947
Urgent Waitlist	4,208	
Non-Urgent Waitlist	2,857	
Total Waitlist	7,065	1,461

Mental Health Hospital, Hiram Davis and VCBR Census (July 2, 2014)

Name	July 2014
Catawba	100
Central State Hospital	213
Eastern State Hospital	271
Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute	115
Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute	66
Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute	157
Western State Hospital	234
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital	114
Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents	35
Hiram Davis Medical Center	66
Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation	326
Total	1,697

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