

ALL IN!

DBHDS Monthly Update from Commissioner Ferguson

March 2015

WELCOME

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of ALL IN! We are just now catching our breath following an extremely busy but successful legislative session. A big thank you to DBHDS staff for their tireless efforts and expertise as they worked to help ensure legislation moved our system in a positive direction. I was also impressed by the understanding so many senators and delegates have of the issues affecting our system, and I was encouraged by their commitment to improving services and quality of life for individuals and families coping with behavioral health disorders or developmental disabilities. In particular, I would like to thank Senator Barker, Senator Hanger, Delegate Cline and Delegate Hope for patroning legislation of great importance to our department and system. These three bills overwhelmingly passed both chambers and are now awaiting signature by the Governor. Those bills are:

- [HB 2118](#) (Cline/Hope) – Defines the term “Real-Time” when used in the online psychiatric bed registry as whenever there is a change in bed availability or at a minimum once a day. This legislation clarifies for all sizes of hospitals and CSUs (facilities) that the registry must be updated whenever there is any change in bed availability; in addition, this legislation would require all participating hospitals and CSUs to update the bed registry at least once a day even if no change in availability has occurred-(as may be case with smaller facilities).
- [SB 1114](#) (Barker) – Allows for an individual who is being held under an Emergency Custody Order and then temporarily detained for medical testing, observation, or treatment to be evaluated by a community services board representative to determine whether the individual meets the criteria for a Temporary Detention Order once medical treatment is complete and prior to the expiration of the order for medical testing. This legislation ensures that persons under an ECO or TDO receive timely and necessary treatment, for both their medical and psychiatric conditions, in a setting most appropriate to meet their needs.
- [SB 1052](#) (Hanger) – Defines the term “Developmental Disability” as found [here](#). DBHDS assumed responsibility for overall policy development, management, and day-to-day operations for the Medicaid Individual and Families Developmental Disabilities Support (IFDDS) Waiver (“DD waiver”) in November 2013. DBHDS also licenses service providers who offer supports to individuals through the IFDDS Waiver. The addition of the definition of DD reinforces DBHDS’ statutory authority for these responsibilities.

I also would like to thank all of the staff who continued critical work on daily operations and programs to ensure the people we serve receive the high quality services they deserve – these duties of course do not stop for even a massive undertaking such as the General Assembly Session. Below, please find examples of these efforts from throughout the past month.

UPDATES and INFORMATION

March Marks Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month – Governor Terry McAuliffe [declared](#) March 2015 to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. An estimated 150,000 adults and children in Virginia have developmental disabilities, and DBHDS’s Department of Developmental Services strives to provide resources and supports specifically tailored to those individuals’ needs. We remain committed to the process of transitioning to a community-based system

of support for individuals with developmental disabilities so they can enjoy life in their communities and close to their friends and loved ones.

Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) – The IFSP has announced Funding Period Two for FY 2015. IFSP is designed to assist individuals on the waiting list for the intellectual disability (ID) or developmental disability (DD) Medicaid waivers to access short-term resources, supports, and services that will help them remain in their own community homes. The program will support a total of 1,000 individuals and families throughout Virginia each year from FY 2014 to FY 2021. To be eligible for this program, an individual must be on either the ID Urgent or Non-Urgent Waiver Wait Lists or the DD Waiver Wait List. **Applications for Funding Period Two must be postmarked on or after March 31st, 2015.** Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis. See the DBHDS website at this [link](#) for the application, instructions and more information.

DBHDS Issues Clear Cut Guidance for Licensing Regulations – Last year, a workgroup convened to draft [clear guidance](#) for nine major licensing regulations. The nine regulations include: service description requirements, provider staffing plan, monitoring and evaluating system quality, initial services, assessment policy, individualized services plan (ISP), ISP requirements, reassessments and ISP reviews, and service requirements for providers of case management services. Consistent and clear guidance will help licensed providers better serve and protect thousands of Virginians who seek treatment as well as their families and caregivers.

Reporting and Investigation Abuse and Neglect of Individuals Receiving Services in Department Facilities – As a reflection of DBHDS’s commitment to protect the rights of individuals we serve and to demonstrate zero tolerance for mistreatment, we are currently reviewing our abuse reporting process to ensure complete compliance with the [human rights regulations](#). An internal review of facilities’ formal policies and informal practices are being conducted to include compliance with more recent guidance about peer-to-peer incidents. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [Office of Human Rights](#).

OneMind Rollout is Complete at Western State Hospital; Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute is Next – Last month, the rollout of the OneMind system, DBHDS’s electronic health record system, at Western State Hospital was completed. Western State Hospital staff at nine units, including the admissions office and treatment areas, are fully trained, and they are incorporating OneMind into their work. Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute will be next to begin implementing the OneMind system, and staff are looking forward to it. Congratulations to Western State Hospital and the OneMind team at Central Office on such a successful rollout!



Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings in March – [On March 18 and 25](#), DBHDS is sponsoring Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings in Richmond. These events provide the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Just as CPR training helps a layperson without medical training assist an individual following a heart attack, MHFA training helps a layperson assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

Virginia Beach General Assembly Members Recognize Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) – Last month, a House Joint Resolution Number 851, submitted by eight Delegates and Senators who represent the Virginia Beach area, acknowledged the hard work of the Virginia Beach CIT. The resolution praised Virginia Beach’s CIT dedication to helping individuals experiencing a serious mental illness crisis and preventing incarceration when mental health treatment is a better option. CIT leads to safer crisis responses and resolutions for individuals with mental illness, the officers and anyone else involved. On February 20, the resolution was agreed to and adopted by the full House of Delegates.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Releases, “Five Point Plan to Improve the Nation’s Mental Health” – America’s mental health system has made significant strides in the last 50 years, but there is still much more that needs to be done to help those who struggle with serious mental illness. Last month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a Five Point Plan to Improve the Nation’s Mental Health to better help the millions of Americans who face behavioral health challenges every day. The five points include: increasing prevention, treatment, and recovery services; expanding the mental health workforce; utilize information technology; education the public; and invest in research.

Behavioral Wellness Partners with Counter Tools to Track Tobacco Retail – Behavioral Health Wellness is partnering with Counter Tools to create an interactive mapping website that will find and display local tobacco retailer data. The [Store Mapper](#) displays tobacco retailer locations, policy compliance, and proximity to schools and parks, and tests policy effectiveness. The [Store Audit Center](#) helps tobacco control practitioners collect evidence of tobacco industry marketing and promotions at the point of sale. A pilot program consisting of five Community Services Boards (CSBs) kicks off in March. The program will go statewide this fall assisting with lowering Virginia’s Retail Violation Rate and helping us stay in compliance with the SYNAR amendment. Additionally it will allow CSBs to target Merchant Education efforts for the reduction of youth access to tobacco, e-cigarettes and other vapor products.

Trillium Drop-In Center, Inc. Wins 2015 Agnes Colgan Community Service Award – Last month, the Trillium Drop-In Center, Inc. won the [2015 Agnes Colgan Community Service Award](#) in health and human services at the Prince William Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards. Prince William honored local businesses and organizations for their noteworthy contributions to the community. Located in Woodbridge, the Trillium Drop-In Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves adults in recovery from serious mental illness. This organization provides mental and behavioral health support, including educational, recreational, and supportive activities.

News Stories of Interest

- Daily Press – [New psychiatric unit for teens in crisis opens in Newport News](#)
- News & Advance – [OP/Ed by Commissioner Ferguson: Caring for the most vulnerable among us](#)
- Roanoke Times – [OP/Ed by Lt. Governor Ralph Northam: The gaping hole in Virginia’s budget](#)
- WJHL – [Training available for life-saving tool in cases of drug overdose](#)
- Great Falls Connection – [Community Services Board provides emergency services, prevention and treatment.](#)
- Springfield Connection – [County program offers insight into mental illness and teaches strategies for intervention](#)

RECENT FACTS & FIGURES

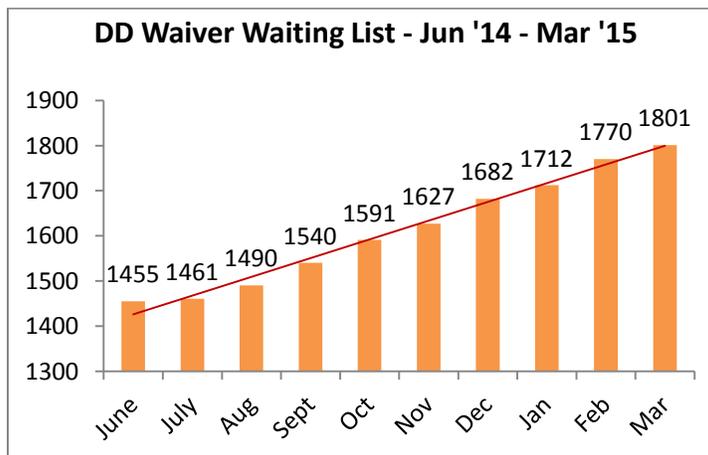
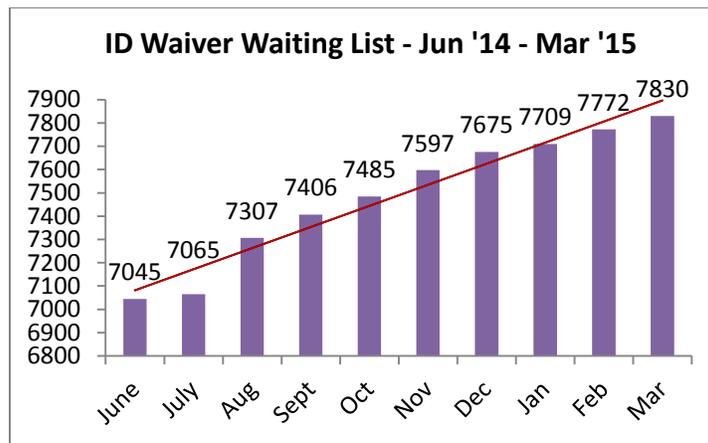
Training Center Census (March 9, 2015)

Name	July 1, 2012 Census	July 1, 2013 Census	Dec 31, 2013 Census	March 9, 2015 Census
SVTC - Closed 6/30/2014	201	114	57	0
NVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2016	153	135	115	74
SWVTC - Closure: By 6/30/2018	173	156	150	129
CVTC - Closure: By 6/30 2020	350	301	285	250
SEVTC - Remains open	106	84	81	72
Total	983	790	688	525

ID and DD Waiver Enrollment and Waiting Lists (March 6, 2015)

	ID Waiver	DD Waiver
Total Slots	10,192	1,013
Urgent Waitlist	4,788	
Non-Urgent Waitlist	3,042	
Total Waitlist	7,830	1,801

Waiting List Totals from Previous ALL IN! Newsletters



Mental Health Hospital, Hiram Davis and VCBR Census (March 9, 2015)

Name	March 2015
Catawba	101
Central State Hospital	205
Eastern State Hospital	281
Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute	114
Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute	55
Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute	153
Western State Hospital	233
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital	119
Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents	40
Hiram Davis Medical Center	67
Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation	368
Total	1,736

Stay Connected!

- **ALL IN! Email List** – Anyone interested in being included on this list can simply send his or her email address using the link [here](#).
- **Waiver Updates Email List** – If you would like to be added to the email list to receive waiver redesign communications, please send your email address and your stakeholder status (e.g., self advocate, family member, provider agency representative, advocacy organization, etc.) to waiverupdates@dbhds.virginia.gov.
- **Innovations** – If you would like to highlight an innovative program or service for future editions of ALL IN!, please send your submission (no more than two paragraphs) to the link [here](#).

In Closing...

Finally, I would like to share with you with photos (below) of Governor McAuliffe's visits to DBHDS Central Office and to Central State Hospital. I am so grateful that the Governor takes the time to meet and thank all the talented and dedicated DBHDS employees. You are the heart and soul of DBHDS' mission and we deeply appreciate what you do every day on behalf of those we serve.



*Governor McAuliffe meets with Central State Hospital staff during a tour earlier this month.
Photo credit: Michael White*



*Central Office staff meet Governor McAuliffe during his visit.
Photo credit: Michael White*

Let's BE BOLD Virginia! I'm ALL IN!

Debra Ferguson, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services