

BACKGROUND

A Brief History and Background on Virginia's Developmental Disability System

Training Center Overview

- Since 1911, Virginia has run institutions, called “training centers,” to serve individuals with intellectual disability.
- In the early 1970s, there were over 5,000 people living in Virginia’s training centers.
- In the 1960s and 1970s dramatic developments were occurring nationwide that would gradually change the role and reduce the censuses at training centers. These developments included:
 - Advances in medicine were improving responses to the complex healthcare needs of this special population.
 - Community-based alternatives to institutional placement were beginning to appear in local communities. This included residential alternatives such as group homes and a range of day programs that provided activities and vocational skill development opportunities.
 - Changes in federal law provided special educational programs for all individuals with special needs in the public school systems.
- Today, there are 1,018 people living among Virginia’s five training centers: Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg, Northern Virginia Training Center in Fairfax, Southside Virginia Training Center in Petersburg, Southwestern Virginia Training Center in Hillsville and Southeastern Virginia Training Center in Chesapeake.
- Southeastern Virginia Training Center is currently downsizing to 75 beds following General Assembly direction.
- Statewide, training centers average 70 discharges annually as a result of residents moving to the community and natural deaths, and average 13 long-term admissions annually as more families choose community-based services.
- The census of the five training centers has dropped 42 percent since 2000.
- Currently, the statewide average per person cost in training centers is \$216,000 which includes direct services, administrative supports and high infrastructure requirements.

Community Services Overview

- Virginia provides alternatives to institutional services through the use of Medicaid Home and Community-Based Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver, which enable individuals with intellectual disability to receive services while living in the community. 8,621 people (as of 1/6/2012) are receiving services through an ID Waiver.
- There is a waiting list for ID Waiver services which now stands at 5,932 individuals (as of 1/6/2012). Of those on the waiting list, 3,316 are considered urgent.
- Virginia also has a Medicaid Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support Waiver (DD) Waiver that serves individuals with developmental disabilities who do not have an intellectual disability diagnosis. It has identical services as the ID Waiver but does not provide congregate residential care such as group homes. The DD Waiver currently services 800 individuals and has a 1,200-person waiting list.
- Today, community services can meet the needs of even the most severely disabled individuals; however, the current waiver program makes it difficult to provide the services individuals require to live in the community, particularly for those with complex behavioral and medical needs.
- Because smaller community homes’ administration and infrastructure costs are significantly lower than training centers, the statewide average per person cost in the community is \$138,000 for individuals with comparable care needs as training center residents.
- There has been bipartisan agreement among recent Governors, including Governor McDonnell, and legislators to build community capacity for Virginians with disabilities.