

POLICY MANUAL

State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

POLICY 4027(CSB)87-11 Community Support Programs for Persons with Serious Mental Illness

Authority

Board Minutes Dated November 18, 1987
Effective Date December 16, 1987
Approved by Board Chairman s/James C. Windsor

References

§ 37.1-10, *Code of Virginia* (1950), as amended
Toward a Model Plan for a Comprehensive, Community-Based Mental Health System, NIMH, October 1987.
Commonwealth of Virginia Mental Health Plan, 1994, DMHMRSAS, November, 1993
Virginia Comprehensive State Plan, 1994-2000, DMHMRSAS, 1993
Policy 1029 (SYS) 90-2, Definitions of Priority Mental Health Populations

Purpose

To establish the State Board's philosophy and approach to meeting the needs of persons with serious mental illness.

Policy

It is the policy of the State Board that services and supports for citizens of Virginia who have serious mental illness be based on the Community Support System (CSS) model as articulated in the documents cited under "References".

The Community Support System approach is philosophically oriented toward consumers and families and emphasizes consumer preferences and choice, involvement and individualization in the design and delivery of services. Community Support Systems also focus on recovery and on helping consumers participate fully in the life of their communities.

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**Policy
(Continued)**

It is further the policy of the Board that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services provide leadership, program development and evaluation assistance as necessary to assist community services boards, other state and local agencies, consumers, family members and other advocates in the establishment of effective Community Support Systems in Virginia. In keeping with this policy, the Department and community services boards should develop and implement the interagency agreements and funding mechanisms necessary to carry out this policy.

While Community Support Systems can be organized and managed in different ways, the essential components of a Community Support System are as follows:

- Consumer Identification and Outreach
- Mental Health Treatment
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Crisis Response Services
- Health and Dental Care
- Housing and Supports
- Income Supports and Entitlements
- Peer Support and Consumer-Operated Services
- Family and Community Support
- Rehabilitation Services
 - Psychosocial Rehabilitation
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Job Placement and Supports
- Protection and Advocacy
- Case Management Services
- Evaluation and Quality Assurance

**Monitoring of
This Policy**

The Office of Mental Health Services shall develop a plan for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.
