

# 2022 Session Priorities

Virginia Network of Private Providers, Inc.

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# Stability

- ▶ Stability in the array of services
- ▶ Stability in the workforce
- ▶ Stability in sufficiency of funding

# Array of Services

- ▶ Whether it is in Behavioral Health or Developmental Disabilities - the urge is to solve the “crisis” in the community by creating new services
- ▶ From conception to actualization is always a longer process than we think it will be
- ▶ We have become experts in “standing up” new services, but . . .
- ▶ We rarely have the opportunity to “scale up” the services to meet the needs of the population we are trying to serve

For FY23 & FY24

Stability in the array of  
services

# Workforce

- ▶ There is no one size fits all answer to the workforce crisis
- ▶ The elements are:
  - ▶ Have the right people “in the pipeline,”
  - ▶ Be able to pay a competitive wage, and
  - ▶ Provide working conditions and job tasks that are enticing
- ▶ The Minimum Wage legislation was the right thing at what turned out to be the wrong time
- ▶ Especially for the DD services - we simply need to pay sufficient rates to allow providers to compensate Direct Support Staff and Supervisory Staff enough to recruit and retain

# For FY23 & FY24

Recognize the work that has  
been done on cost;

Make the hard decisions to  
pay those rates

# Sufficiency of Funding

- ▶ While we understand the value of “rate studies” to establish a framework using assumptions that reflect the actual work, they fall into one of two categories:
  - ▶ Estimations for services not yet in place, or
  - ▶ Look backs on services in place which may or may not represent a viable service
- ▶ In either case, the validity is not reflective of tomorrow’s reality
- ▶ In light of the severe shortage of qualified workers and the projected minimum wage increases . . .

**For FY23 & FY24**

**Project the need for sufficient  
rates in the FY24-FY26  
biennium**

# What are the priorities?

- ▶ Stability in the array of services
- ▶ Stability in the workforce
- ▶ Stability in sufficiency of funding