



## Virginia Network of Private Providers, Inc.

### *Building Meaningful Lives for Extraordinary People*

<https://vnppinc.org>

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An association for persons or organizations with an interest in or that provide support for persons who have mental illness, developmental delay or substance use disorder, and who are licensed by or funded by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

A State Association  
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To: House Budget Conferees, Individually

Re: Conference Report

As you know, our message to you and to the administration over the past few years has been that **all** of the providers of behavioral health and developmental disability services, public or private, hospital or community are substantially unable to meet the needs of Virginia citizens because they lack the workforce to do so. There are multiple and complex causes for the “workforce crisis,” but regardless of the reason(s) until we solve this problem, the many needs of many Virginians will not/can not be met.

One of the significant impacts of raising the minimum wage was that our ability to recruit for direct care positions has been seriously hampered by the robust competition from the convenience store down the block! As the salaries are being increased for others, we must be able to do the same, paid for by increased DD Waiver Rates:

- We hope that you will preserve the fidelity of the Rate Rebase model by directing DMAS to assign rates consistent with the study to 100% of the determined rate. While those services listed in 304 #16h, in addition to those in the Governor’s introduced budget, do represent services that will provide greater access for more individuals, they do not reflect all of the services. **304 # 16h**
- We also hope that you will require that DMAS supplement any DD Waiver rate which would reduce the amount currently paid by the 12.5% temporary increase by including those services with other community behavioral health services in the continuation of the 12.5% and make that increase permanent. **304 #15h**
- We strongly support the deferral of new licensing positions to DBHDS and hope that the review of the functions of the licensing division as proposed by the Joint Oversight Committee will be completed. **309 #1h**

Lastly, while we appreciate the great frustration about the delay in distribution of the DD Waiver slots approved for the current fiscal year; we do hope that all of the slots proposed in the introduced budget will be funded as planned.

Thank you!

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