



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
Member of ANCOR

To: Senate 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/cannot be met.

Raising the minimum wage was the “right” thing to do, but 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 the state employees, 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. **#304 23s**
- 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% made permanent. **304 #21s**
- We also support the reduction of new positions to DBHDS; we have sought for several years a review of the effectiveness of the efforts by the Office of Licensing and feel that your actions to more closely monitor compliance with DOJ and examine the functionality of the oversight and monitoring efforts is warranted and welcome. **311 #5s; 310 #2s**

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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