



## 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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We have reviewed the Committee proposed amendments to the budget and, as always, there are items that we hope will be agreed to by the Conference Committee. We have listed the most important (**that do not appear in both the House and Senate versions**) below:

1. Increase rates for the full range of community-based BH services (#304 4s) and fund a study to establish a baseline for those same services (#308 5s)
2. Expand permanent supportive housing (#313 1s)
3. Increase DD Waiver rates to continue the progress made from the initiative last year (#304 9s); progress was made, direct care wages are significantly improved, but vacancies continue to be high, services struggle to reopen (or stay open) due to lack of staff, overtime is still driving costs up and limiting options for growing capacity.
4. Align Supported Living rates with Group Home residential (4 beds or fewer) (#304 1s)

And in support of the stability is critical to systemic success:

5. Increase funding for the first three steps of STEP-VA to mitigate the effects of inflation for the CSBs (#313 4s), and
6. Allocate \$50M to fund up to 100% of the cost for increased staff compensation for CSBs which will help to alleviate staffing shortages which could reduce waiting lists, expedite access to services and facilitate staff stability to the benefit of both the individuals and the private providers who support them (#313 5s)

We also hope you will seriously consider the proposal attached to rewrite/rethink the direction to “eliminate” the Priority One Waitlist for the DD Waivers (see attached for details)

Thank you for your support and consideration!

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