

MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET PACKAGE

The budget includes a total of nearly \$42 million to strengthen core services in Virginia's mental health system, including:

Improving Virginia's Civil Commitment Process

The General Assembly included flexibility for DMHMRSAS to work with system stakeholders to determine how funds can best be allocated to meet the pressing need for improved care surrounding the civil commitment process.

The biennium budget includes \$28.3 million to be allocated in key areas, including:

- **Emergency Services** – Helps increase emergency services capacity by:
(1) Improving access to emergency psychiatric care, (2) Increasing emergency staff to provide crisis response, participate in commitment hearings, etc. and (3) Expanding the number of residential crisis stabilization programs. Expanded emergency services would provide intensive services, rapid access and peer-provided services as part of the civil commitment process.
- **Outpatient Services** – Expands and improves outpatient services by adding new outpatient clinicians as part of the civil commitment process.
- **Case Management** – Increases case management throughout the Commonwealth to provide coordination and linkage services with a focus on helping individuals adhere to a treatment plan as part of the civil commitment process.

In addition, over the biennium, the mental health budget includes:

- **\$6 million** to expand a pilot program for jail diversion services funded in the 2006-08 biennial budget that will provide diversion and wrap-around services for an estimated 300-500 people.
- **\$5.8 million** to hire clinicians specializing in children's mental health to help serve children who are not eligible for services through the Comprehensive Services Act.
- **\$600,000** to create positions in DMHMRSAS to expand monitoring of CSBs and to develop core service standards and service improvement plans. These positions will allow for better oversight of community-based services expansion.
- **\$600,000** to establish a training program for crisis intervention to enable law enforcement to respond to crisis situations involving individuals with mental illness.
- **\$345,000** to expand licensing staff to help monitor and ensure program quality.