



## 2018 - 2020 Budget Priorities

**STEP-VA – System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia:** STEP-VA was developed to address ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCESS, QUALITY, and CONSISTENCY across Virginia’s 40 Community Services Boards (CSBs) with the goal of achieving excellence in behavioral healthcare, and ultimately a healthy Virginia. STEP-VA services are intended to foster wellness among individuals and prevent crises before they arise.

The General Assembly has mandated that all of STEP-VA be provided in every CSB in Virginia, but STEP-VA has not been fully funded. To meet the code mandated timeline for implementation of all the services and supports, the General Assembly needs to provide funding in the 2018 – 2020 biennial budget.

### **STEP-VA Services:**

- Same Day Access (SDA) to Assessments
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
- Peer Supports
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Mental Health Care for Members of the Armed Services & Veterans
- Person-Centered Treatment Planning
- Care Coordination
- Behavioral Health Crisis
- Targeted Case Management
- Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring

**Medicaid Expansion:** The VACSB believes that all Virginians deserve access to health insurance and we are pleased that Governor McAuliffe has included Medicaid expansion in his proposed budget. We are hopeful that the General Assembly will move forward with Medicaid expansion and consider preserving the state general fund dollars in the CSB system. We believe that if the state general fund dollars remain in the system, Virginia will be in a better position to fund outpatient services, the next “step” in STEP-VA, by 2021 as is currently mandated in the code of Virginia.

**Increase the Reimbursement Rate for Medicaid Early Intervention Case Management:** Early Intervention Services result in special education cost savings and provide an increased quality of life for the child and his/her family. Increasing the Medicaid Early Intervention case management reimbursement rate to its data-determined adequacy is necessary because the current monthly rate does not cover the expense of providing this critical service. Early Intervention services ensure that eligible children and families receive service coordination that is appropriate to the needs of infants, toddlers and their families.

**Reduce the DD Waiver Waiting List:** Currently, over 11,000 people with developmental disabilities are on a waiting list for community-based services. Virginia’s DD Waivers have been redesigned to provide increased access to community supports. Using the Family and Individual Supports Waiver, Virginia can serve 50% of the individuals on the DD Waiver waiting list for a quarter of the cost of existing DD waiver programs. Receiving a Waiver slot will enable an individual who needs developmental services and supports to live a life that is fully integrated in the community.