



**RIGHT HELP.
RIGHT NOW.**

Transforming Behavioral Health Care for Virginians

CSB STATE OF THE STATE

Hallie Pence

Executive Director

May 2, 2024

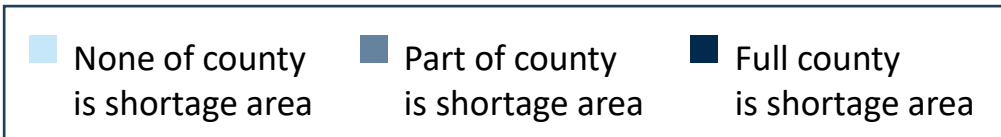
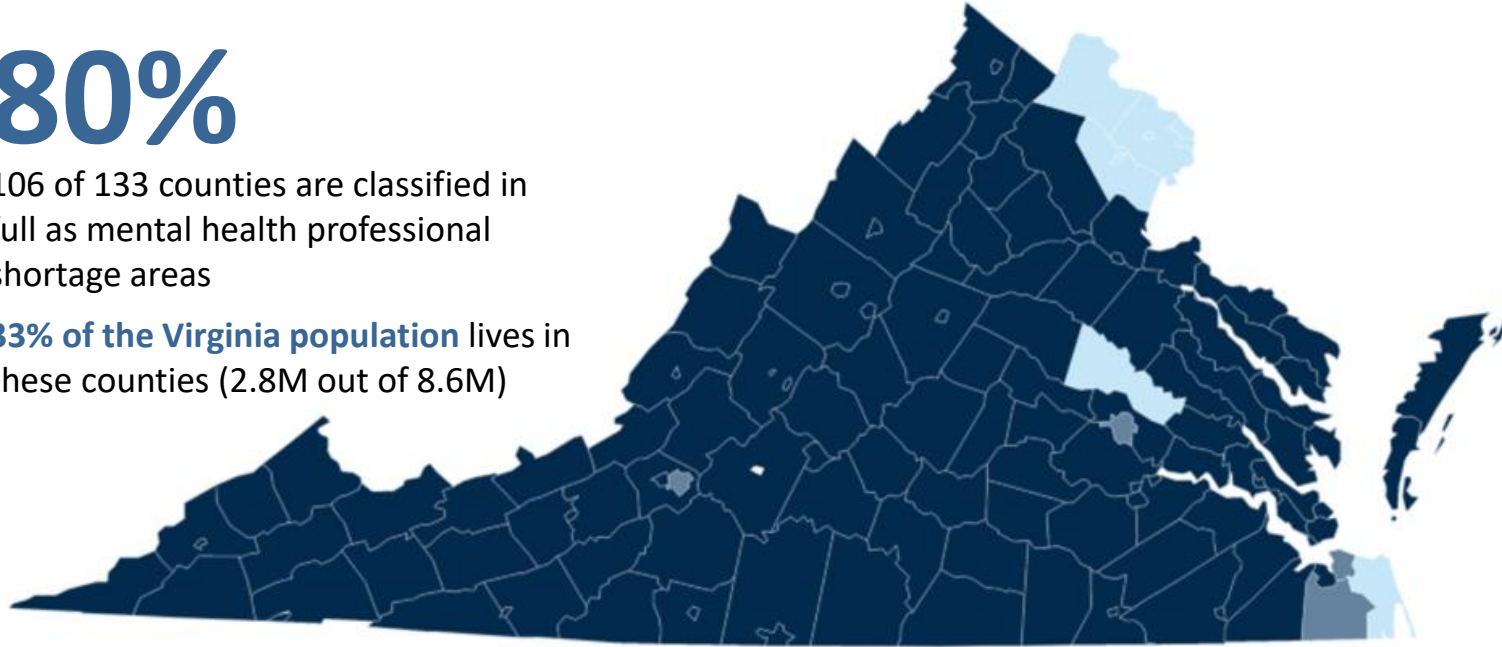
Across the Commonwealth, Access to Behavioral Health Care Remains a Challenge

Virginia Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas by County¹

80%

106 of 133 counties are classified in full as mental health professional shortage areas

33% of the Virginia population lives in these counties (2.8M out of 8.6M)



Mental Health America Rankings²

34th

 Access to Care

39th

 Mental Health Workforce Availability

48th

 Youth Mental Health

1. Health Resources and Services Administration, Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by State, as of September 30, 2022, (<https://data.hrsa.gov/>)
2. Mental Health America, State of Mental Health in America 2023, Access to Care Ranking (<https://mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-America>)



The Commonwealth's Behavioral Health (BH) Plan is Founded on Six Pillars

An aligned approach to BH that provides access to **timely, effective, and community-based care** to reduce the burden of mental health needs, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders on Virginians and their families

1: We must strive to ensure same-day care for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises

2: We must relieve the law enforcement communities' burden while providing care and reduce the criminalization of behavioral health

3: We must develop more capacity throughout the system, going beyond hospitals, especially to enhance community-based services

4: We must provide targeted support for substance use disorder (SUD) and efforts to prevent overdose

5: We must make the behavioral health workforce a priority, particularly in underserved communities

6: We must identify service innovations and best practices in pre-crisis prevention services, crisis care, post-crisis recovery and support, and develop means to close capacity gaps



Right Help, Right Now (RHRN) Launched December 2022



"We are facing a behavioral health crisis across Virginia and the United States. The three-year *'Right Help, Right Now'* vision to revolutionize our behavioral health delivery system starts... right now. This is a top priority for my administration, and we will not stop until we have a system that delivers the *'Right Help, Right Now'* to the people who need it most," said Governor Glenn Youngkin.

First Year

- +\$230 million in additional spend
 - \$58 million for CRCs and CSUs
 - \$4.2 million for children's crisis services
 - \$10 million to establish mobile crisis services in underserved areas
 - \$10 million for comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs
- Signed 24 RHRN bills in spring of 2023

Second Year

- +\$680 million additional spend*
- Bills signed in spring of 2024 include those that relieve law enforcement, ensure better care, and help prevent fentanyl overdoses*

*See following slides for further information



Right Help, Right Now 2024 General Assembly Updates

Signed by the Governor:

- ✓ **HB 823 & SB 497** – Defines “available” criteria for authorizing alternative transportation
- ✓ **HB 1038** (incorporated into HB 1336) – Expands use of technology for storing and dispensing drugs in certain facilities
- ✓ **SB 403** – Establishes registered behavioral health technicians / behavioral health technicians assistants
- ✓ **HB 601 & SB 543** – Health Insurance coverage standards for behavioral health crisis services
- ✓ **HB 1242 & SB 546** – Allows the presence of others during emergency custody and temporary detention orders
- ✓ **HB 1187 & SB 614** – Criminalizes the use of Xylazine, a common horse tranquilizer, when intended for human consumption
- ✓ **SB 469** – Establishes a Class 6 felony for the manufacturing, selling, giving, and distributing of adulterated or misbranded drugs



Governor's Common Ground Budget

Governor Youngkin proposed \$685 million in new behavioral health funding for his Common Ground budget. This is a giant step forward when combined with the funding appropriated in the last budget—bringing the commitment to nearly \$1.6 billion, including:

- **\$516 million** total funds for **developmental disability services** including 3,440 waiver slots, a slot per person on the Priority 1 Waitlist, along with waiver service rate increases to grow the necessary workforce
- **\$48 million** to meet the three-year target of **emergency room alternatives**, such as crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units, and publicly funded mobile crisis response teams to ensure that people have someone to respond to and somewhere to go in a crisis
- **\$23 million** to ease law enforcement burden, including expanding **alternative transportation**
- **\$61 million** for building a **best-in-class behavioral health workforce** through salary increases in state hospitals, behavioral health loan repayment, and more clinical training sites and residency slots
- **\$25 million** in **opioid abatement and response initiatives** including a campaign to reduce youth fentanyl poisoning, wastewater monitoring, naloxone availability, and services for those with substance use disorders



Opportunities for Continued Growth

**Improving Mental Health
Literacy**

**Creating Awareness
Through Events**

**Expanding Efforts to Build
Youth Resilience and Well-
Being**

**Increasing Workforce
Recruitment and Training**

**Fostering New
Relationships Within
Industry**

**Continuing to Connect
Individuals to Available
Resources**





**RIGHT HELP.
RIGHT NOW.**

Transforming Behavioral Health Care for Virginians

THANK YOU!