

## VACSB DRAFT Budget Priorities for 2025 General Assembly Session

### **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD) WAIVER SERVICES: FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

**COORDINATORS:** The 2024 general assembly funded 3,440 new developmental disability Waiver slots to address the “Priority One” waitlist. This is an historic level of funding and is approximately twice the number of Waiver slots funded in a typical biennium. VACSB appreciates the general assembly’s large investment in DD Waiver services. However, since CSBs are the single point of entry for Waiver services and are the sole providers of Waiver support coordination, it will be critical that the general assembly provide funds for CSBs to onboard the additional support coordinators needed for the large number of DD Waiver slots forthcoming throughout this biennium. The CSBs cannot bill Medicaid during the onboarding process of a new support coordinator, which takes about six months. Therefore, **VACSB will be requesting the funds needed to cover the onboarding time period of each new support coordinator hired, before Medicaid billing can occur.**

**EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES:** VACSB is requesting an **increase in funding for Early Intervention services to account for the 5% increase in children served each year and to account for the deficit that Early Intervention services operate under each year.** Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities can have a significant impact on a child’s ability to learn new skills and increase their future success in school and in life. These services are much more effective and less costly when provided during the Early Intervention period, which is from birth to age three.

**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SERVICES:** VACSB is requesting a **12.5% rate increase for the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services** that did not receive the permanent 12.5% rate increase other behavioral health services received. Those services are: **Office Based Addiction Treatment (OBAT), Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).** The CSBs are experiencing workforce challenges in all areas of services, including SUD services. Increasing rates is one way to increase compensation for CSB workforce.

**PREVENTION SERVICES:** Prevention services are an important part of how CSBs serve the community across a full continuum. During the pandemic, federal funding through the Consolidated Appropriation Act (CAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allowed CSB prevention staff to expand programs for their communities. Schools, police departments and other community partners appreciate how robust and active CSB prevention programs have become. CAA funds ended recently, and ARPA funds will end in September of 2025. To account for this loss, **VACSB is requesting an increase in general funds that are dedicated to prevention services.** This will allow the CSB prevention staff to continue its robust array of services in every community of the Commonwealth.

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