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Community Services Boards, Inc.
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2025 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2025



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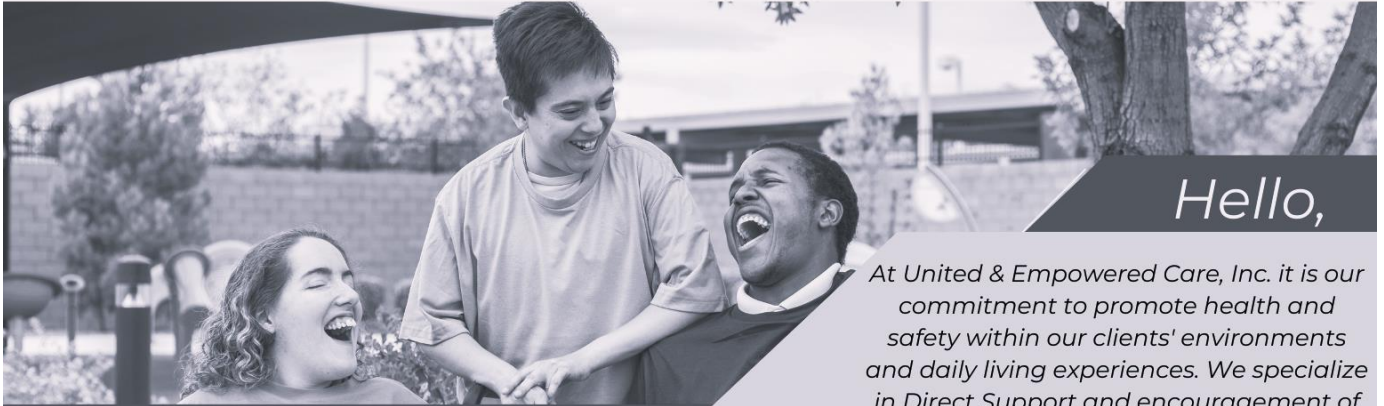


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CONTENTS



| | |
|---|----|
| Welcome Message from VACSB Chair..... | 2 |
| Conference Schedule | 3 |
| Conference Exhibitors..... | 4 |
| Meeting Agendas: | |
| Emergency Services Council | 5 |
| Children and Family Services Council | 6 |
| Human Resources Council..... | 7 |
| Developmental Services Council | 8 |
| MH/SUD Council | 10 |
| Prevention Council | 12 |
| Executive Directors Forum | 13 |
| VACSB Board of Directors..... | 14 |
| VACSB Business/Board Meeting Outcomes (04 OCT 2024) | 16 |
| VACSB 2024 – 2025 Meeting Calendar | 27 |
| VACSB Priorities for the 2025 – 2026 State Budget | 28 |
| Conference Center Map | 30 |



**CEUs are being provided by
DBHDS. Please stop by the
registration desk at the end of the
day on January 21, 2025 to pick up
your certificate.**

Welcome Message from the VACSB Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, I am so happy that you have decided to spend some time learning and connecting with your colleagues at VACSB's 2025 Legislative Conference. It is my great pleasure to be a part of this event. If this is your first VACSB conference, I extend a special welcome and hope you will join us at future conferences.

The Legislative Forum kicks off our conference on Tuesday morning and will be presented by VACSB Executive Director, Jennifer Faison, Public Policy Committee Chair, Greg Preston, Acting Vice Chair, Mary Cole, and VACSB Public Policy Manager, Ariel DeVoy. During the Legislative Forum, you will receive a comprehensive overview of legislation currently under consideration by the General Assembly which may impact our system.

We are privileged to have The Honorable Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, as the conference luncheon speaker. Secretary Kelly's presentation will serve to inform CSB leadership, Board Members, staff and other stakeholders of the Administration's priorities. This information will provide you with additional talking points for the conversations you will be having with your legislators while in Richmond, and throughout the General Assembly.

As always, a very special thanks to the VACSB staff for their hard work and support. To the sponsors and exhibitors who support us, we appreciate you and are glad to have you with us.

I am honored to serve as your VACSB Chair, and I sincerely thank you for your hard work, commitment, and service. If you have questions, suggestions, or just want to say "Hi", please stop me during the conference. I hope to see each of you at the Tuesday evening networking reception.

Warmly,
Patrick Sowers, VACSB Chair



Virginia Association Of
Community Services Boards, Inc.
Making a Difference Together

2025 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The Richmond Marriott, Downtown

| Tuesday, January 21, 2025 | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 8:30 am - 5:00 pm | Registration Desk Open | Lower Level |
| 8:30 am - 5:00 pm | Exhibit Center Open | Capital Ballroom Foyer |
| 9:30 am - 10:30 am | Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Center | Capital Foyer |
| 10:30 am - 12:00 pm | 2025 Legislative Forum | Capital Ballroom 4-8 |
| 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Conference Luncheon with remarks by The Honorable Janet Kelly, Secretary, Health and Human Resources | Grand Ballroom E&F |
| 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm | Exhibit Center and Stretch Break | Capital Ballroom Foyer |
| 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm | CSB/BHA Board Member Session - <i>Why Am I Here...Really (A Candid Exploration and Conversation About Board Service)</i> - Presented by Valerie J. Abbott, Early Intervention Service Coordinator (EICM), Infant & Toddler Connection of Henrico, New Kent and Charles City | Monroe |
| 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Conference Meetings Executive Directors Forum MH/SUD Services Councils Developmental Services Council Children & Family Council Emergency Services Council Human Resources Council Prevention Services Council | Room: Shenandoah Room: Salon D/Grand Ballroom Room: Salon C/Grand Ballroom Room: Jefferson Room: Salon 3/Capital Ballroom Room: Dominion/Commonwealth Room: Salon B/Grand Ballroom |
| 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Refreshment Break - <i>Provided by Altruix</i> | Salon 4 Foyer/Capital |
| 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Networking Reception – cash bar | Salon F/Grand Ballroom |
| Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | | |
| 8:00 am | Registration Desk Open | Lower Level |
| 8:00 am - 9:00 am | Buffet Breakfast | Capital Ballroom 4&5 |
| 9:00 am | Combined VACSB Board of Directors and Business Meeting | Capital Ballroom 4&5 |
| 12:00 pm | VACSB Clearinghouse Committee Meeting <i>Boxed lunches available to Committee members at 11:30 am.</i> | Madison/Jefferson/Monroe |

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards 2025 Legislative Conference Exhibitors & Sponsors

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| James River Behavioral Solutions | Monarch | Mount Regis Center |
| Oracle Health | Qualifacts | Richmond Behavioral Health Authority |
| SafeinHome | Sandstone Care | Spherient |
| Streamline Healthcare Solutions | | |

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Emergency Services Council Meeting

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Salon 3

- I. Welcome / Roll Call / Announcements
- II. Alternative Transportation Updates
 - a. Gail Paysor/Dustin Wilcox
- III. DBHDS - Crisis Services
- IV. General Topics/Updates:
 - a. Public Policy Committee Update – Sarah Gray
 - b. PRMC Update - Heather Baxter
 - c. Training Committee – Natashsa Randall/Ashton Morse
 - d. CRC
 - e. Mobile
- V. Regional updates:
 - a. Region 1: Chris Barnes
 - b. Region 2: Heather Baxter
 - c. Region 3: Kelly Koebel
 - d. Region 4: Sarah Gray
 - e. Region 5: Gina O’Halloran
- VI. Open Floor:

Next Meeting: February 6, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.



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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Children & Family Services Council**

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Jefferson

Welcome and Introductions

Partner Updates and Related Council Q&A/Discussion

- Nina Marino, UMFS – Program updates
- DBHDS – Office of Child & Family Services
- CCCA – John Hamric
- OCS – Scott Reiner

Regional Crisis Updates ► Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

- Regional Program Information Sharing

VACSB Committee Updates

- Administrative Policy (Whitney)
- Development & Training (Morgan)
- Finance (Cathy)
- Public Policy (Paulette)
- Quality & Outcomes - (Cathy)
- Regulatory (Paulette)
- DMC (Rebecca)

Open Council Dialogue

Adjournment

Next Meeting – TBD March, 2025

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Finance Directors Council**

The Finance Directors Retreat will be held on January 30, 2025, at Valley CSB in Staunton, VA.

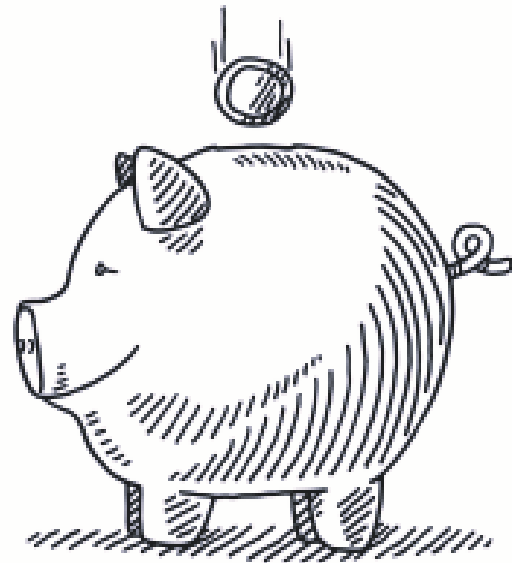
I. Roundtable Discussions

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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Developmental Services Council**

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Salon C

Welcome

Shannon Clark

- DS Directory Updates

Natacha Dolson

Announcements/Reminders

Shannon Clark

- I. Part C Updates

Kyla Patterson

- II. DBHDS Updates

Heather Norton, Eric Williams

- DOJ Updates
- Waiver Updates

- III. DMAS Updates

Ann Bevan

Closed Session: DD Council-Only Discussion

Regional Updates

- IV. Region I: *Donna Higgs*
V. Region II: *Sierra Simmons*
VI. Region III: *Shannon Clark*
VII. Region IV: *Johnnie Cuningham*
VIII. Region V: *Debbie Dashiell*
IX. CoCoA: *Alison Standring*

VACSB Committee Reports

- X. Public Policy *Sierra Simons*
XI. Services Development *Tina Martina*
XII. Regulatory *Wendy Guillion*
XIII. Development & Training *Shannon Clark*
XIV. Administrative Policy *David Meadows*
XV. Data Management *Tim Capoldo*
XVI. Quality Leadership *Pam Wallace*
XVII. Quality & Outcomes *Wendy Guillion*

Next meetings:

March 17, 2025 Meeting Henrico CSB 11:30-2:00 (hybrid)

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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Services Councils**

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Salon D

- I. MH/SUD Chairs and Co-Chairs Introduction, Welcome, & Role Call
 - LeNelle Mozell, SUD Council Chair, LMOzell@pwcgov.org
 - Tim May, SUD Co-Council Chair, Tim.May@nwcsb.com
 - Alisha Wright, MH Council Chair, awright@southsidebh.org

- II. MH/SUD Council Representatives acknowledgments and updates (if any)
 - Public Policy – Michele Ebright, Crossroads – Bill Rooney, Alexandria
 - Data Management Council – Susan Chittum, Allegheny Highlands
 - Training and Development Committee – Ryan Banks, Encompass Community Supports, Debra O’Beirne, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
 - Regulatory Committee – Michelle Ebright, Crossroads and Bill Rooney, Alexandria
 - Finance Committee – Representative Needed
 - Quality and Outcomes Committee – Jodie E. Burton, Danville-Pittsylvania

- III. Peer Support Services Subcommittee report – Robyn Hantelman, Encompass Community Supports & Robyn Collins, Harrisonburg-Rockingham CSB

- IV. Virginia State Police Behavioral Health Assessment and Management Team- Educational Topic and Resource

- V. SOR Funding & Other Federal Grants

- V. Voting for VACSB MH/SUD Council Leadership
 - a. MH Council Co-Chair- immediate need
 - b. SUD Council Chair- opening 7/1/25
 - c. SUD Council Co-Chair- opening 7/1/25

- VI. Adjournment



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FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Prevention Services Council**

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Salon B

Meeting Facilitated by:

Kelly Bulin, Eastern Shore CSB, Co-Chair

Melissa Ackley, Chesterfield CSB Co-Chair

Timekeeping and Minutes by:

Charmin Horton, Eastern Shore CSB, Secretary

AGENDA:

TIME:

Welcome and Rollcall (Kelly and Charmin) 2:30-2:35pm

Introduction of New Prevention Staff (Kelly) 2:35-2:40pm

2024 VACSB Prevention Council Year in Review 2:40-3:10pm

(Kelly, Melissa and Colleen)

Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness (OBHW) 3:15-3:35pm

(Colleen Hughes)

Reports and Updates

VACSB Committee Reports: Updates (Melissa) 3:35-3:45pm

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Training and Development | (Cheryl Matteo-Kerney) |
| Public Policy Committee | (Heather Martinsen) |
| VACSB Finance Committee | (Andrea Randle and Emily Mullins) |
| Administrative Policy Committee | (Amanda Oakes) |
| Data Management Committee | (Hannah Bershing) |
| Governor’s Addiction and Recovery | (Heather Martinsen) |
| Q&O Committee | (Kelly Bulin and Emily Mullins) |
| Quality Leadership Subcommittee | (Samantha Crockett) |
| Prevention Council Co-Chairs | (Kelly Bulin and Melissa Ackley) |

Discussion of Regional Processes: Overview about how each Region structures and plans their shared work (Regional Chairs) 3:45-4:00pm

Prevention Highlights (Kelly) 4:00-4:10pm

If time permits:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Southside | International Overdose Awareness Day- RAPID REVIVE |
| Valley | Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Prevention Services |
| Norfolk | Mental Wellness Symposium |

Next Meeting & Adjournment (Kelly) 4:10-4:15pm

February 21, 2025, via ZOOM

Post Meeting Networking Session (Membership) 4:15-5:00p.m.

Please feel free to stay and meet with Prevention Colleagues to exchange thoughts and experiences. Mentor a new Preventionist. Brainstorm new ideas. Problem-solve current tasks.

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

Executive Directors Forum

January 21, 2025

2:00 PM

ROOM: Shenandoah

- I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – *Ingrid Barber*
- II. Additions to the Agenda
- III. DBHDS Updates – *DBHDS Staff*
- IV. VACSB Reports and New Business
 - A. 2025 Session Preparation – *Jennifer Faison*
 - B. VACSB CCBHC Work Group – *David Coe/Ingrid Barber/Jennifer Faison*
 - C. STAC 2.0/STEP-VA Program Work Group – *Group Discussion*
 - D. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert – *Group Discussion*
- V. DMAS Updates – *Group Discussion*
 - A. Medicaid Redesign
 - 1. Case Management Work Group
- VI. Committee Updates
 - A. Administrative Policy – *Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison*
 - B. Public Policy – *Greg Preston/Mary Cole (acting Vice Chair)*
 - C. Regulatory – *VACANT*
 - D. Service Development – *MiMi Sedjat/Margaret Graham*
 - E. Quality & Outcomes – *Melissa Lucy/Brandon Rogers*
 - F. Training & Development – *Lisa Beitz/Melissa Lucy*
- VII. Adjourn



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Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

VACSB Board of Directors

VACSB Membership Business Meeting

January 22, 2025

9:00 AM

ROOM: Capital Ballroom 4&5

- I. Call to order/Welcome/Introductions – *Patrick Sowers*
 - A. VACSB Board Members Roll Call – *Stephanie Clark*
 - B. VACSB Membership Roll Call – *Stephanie Clark*
- II. Approval of Outcomes:
 - A. 11 DECEMBER 2024 Board of Directors Meeting (*previously distributed*)
 - B. 04 OCTOBER 2024 Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting (*p. 16 and previously distributed*)
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Officers Reports
 - A. Chair – *Patrick Sowers*
 - B. Past Chair – *Angelo Wider*
 - C. 1st Vice Chair – *Gib Sloan*
 - D. 2nd Vice Chair – *Ingrid Barber*
 - E. Secretary – *Stephanie Clark*
 - F. Treasurer – *Bernetta Watkins*
- V. Council Reports
 - A. Children & Family Services – *Cathy Brown/Paulette Skapars*
 - B. Developmental Services Council – *Shannon Clark/LaVoyce Reid*
 - C. Emergency Services Council – *Kim Woodlee/Ashton Morse*
 - D. Mental Health Services Council – *Alisha Wright/VACANT*
 - E. Prevention Services Council – *Kelly Bulin/Melissa Ackley*
 - F. Substance Use Disorder Services Council – *LeNelle Mozell/Tim May*
 - G. Regional Programs and Services Council – *Lisa Beitz*
 - H. Finance Directors Council – *Danielle Sayre/Bill Fellows*
 - I. Human Resources Directors Council – *Crystal Homer/Cindy Lewis*
 - J. Quality Leadership Council – *Melissa Constantine/Laura Davis*
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Administrative Policy – *Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison*
 - B. Public Policy – *Greg Preston/Mary Cole (acting Vice Chair)*
 - C. Regulatory – *VACANT*
 - D. Service Development – *MiMi Sedjat/Margaret Graham*
 - E. Quality & Outcomes – *Melissa Lucy/Brandon Rodgers*
 - F. Training & Development – *Lisa Beitz/Melissa Lucy*
- VII. Regional Reports
 - A. Region 1 – *Rebekah Brubaker/James Sikkema/Barbara Barrett*
 - B. Region 2 – *Margaret Graham/Evan Jones/Voneka Bennett*
 - C. Region 3 – *Rebecca Holmes/Jane Carlson/Debbi Knox*
 - D. Region 4 – *Laura Totty/Charnessa Pleasant/Bernetta Watkins*
 - E. Region 5 – *Ed Gonzales/Darryl Pirok/Bea Dahlen*
- VIII. VACSB Reports and New Business - *Jennifer Faison*
 - E. 2025 Session Preparation – *Jennifer Faison*
 - F. VACSB CCBHC Work Group – *Ingrid Barber/Jennifer Faison*
 - G. STAC 2.0/STEP-VA Program Work Group

- H. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert
- VIX. DMAS Updates – *Jennifer Faison*
 - A. Medicaid Redesign
 - Case Management Work Group
 - X. Executive Director’s Report – *Jennifer Faison*
 - XI. Other Items/Announcements
 - XII. Future Meetings
 - A. March 12, 2025 VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
 - B. May 9, 2025 Norfolk Marriott Waterside
 - XIII. Adjourn

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards Combined

Board of Directors and Business Meeting

OCTOBER 4 2024 9:15 a.m.

OUTCOMES

Board of Directors Members In Attendance: Gib Sloan, Ingrid Barber, Angelo Wider, Bernetta Watkins, Phil Caldwell, Greg Preston, MiMi Sedjat, Margaret Graham, Mark Chadwick, Ellen Harrison, Lisa Beitz, Melissa Lucy, Rebekah Brubaker, James Sikkema, Margaret Graham, Evan Jones, Voneka Bennett, Debbie Knox, Ed Gonzales, Cathy Brown, Poullette Skapers, Shannon Clark, LaVoyce Reid, Danielle Sayre, Crystal Homer, Alisha Wright, Kelly Bulin, Laura Davis, LeNelle Mozell, Tim May, Bernetta Watkins

Board of Directors Members Not in Attendance: Patrick Sowers, Stephanie Clark, Laura Totty, Jim LaGraffe, Demetrios Peratsakis, Barbara Barrett, Rebecca Holmes, Jane Carlson, Ivy Sager, Charnessa Pleasant, Darryl Pirok, Bea Dahlen, Kim Woodlee, Ashton Morse, Bill Fellows, Cindy Lewis, Melissa Ackley, Melissa Constantine

CSB Membership in Attendance: Alexandria, Alleghany Highlands, Arlington County, Blue Ridge, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Colonial Crossroads, Cumberland Mountain, Danville-Pittsylvania, Dickenson, District 19, Eastern Shore, Encompass, Fairfax-Falls Church, Goochland-Powhatan, Harrisonburg-Rockingham, Henrico, Horizon, Loudoun, Mount Rogers, New River Valley, Northwestern, Piedmont Regional, Planning District One, Portsmouth, Prince William, Rappahannock Area, Region Ten, Richmond, Southside, Valley, Virginia Beach, Western Tidewater

CSB Membership Not in Attendance: Hampton-Newport News, Hanover, Highlands, Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck, Norfolk, Rockbridge Area

- I. Call to order/Welcome – Angelo Wider called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
 - A. Board of Directors Roll Call – Jennifer Faison called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
 - B. Membership Roll Call- Jennfier Faison called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
- II. Approval of Outcomes - Angelo Wider
 - A. Board of Directors: July 24, 2024
 - **OUTCOME:** Upon motion and second the outcomes were approved unanimously as previously distributed.
 - B. Membership Business Meeting: May 3, 2024
 - **OUTCOME:** Upon motion and second the outcomes were approved unanimously as previously distributed.
- III. Additions to the Agenda: There were none.
- IV. Officer Reports:
 - A. Chair – Patrick Sowers (not in attendance-no report)
 - B. Past Chair- Angelo Wider had no report but reminded the group about the need for strong advocacy regarding Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability funding and services.
 - C. 1st Vice Chair- Gib Sloan had no report.
 - D. 2nd Vice Chair- Ingrid Barber reported the following on the previous day’s Executive Directors Forum:
 - Recognition of the retirements of Natalie Ward Hampton-Newport News CSB, Demetrios Perastakis Western Tidewater CSB, and Beth Englehorn of Southside CSB. Their colleagues had positive things to say about each of them, including their leadership, advocacy and stewardship. They will truly be missed.
 - Brandon Rogers was introduced as the new Executive Director of Wester Tidewater CSB.
 - DBHDS partners report: Andrew Diefenthaler introduced Max Tingle, who is working on the data dashboard, to demonstrate the latest enhancements. The dashboard remains confidential to the

CSBs and DBHDS at this point, as it is still a work in progress. Screenshots from the portal were shared with the Behavioral Health Commission, DBHDS will move the link to the dashboard to a portal to increase security. They are also working on placing CSBs in community peer group categories to provide a way to compare like CSBs. DBHDS requested feedback from the CSBs.

- The Marcus Alert mandate via code and the lack of funding to support some future projects was discussed and the Public Policy Committee has been engaged to address this matter.
- The group discussed CSB workforce funding, Craig reported that they are still awaiting spending plans from one CSB and they are planning to release the money in October. Jennifer Faison will cover the rest of this information in her report.

E. Treasurer- Jennifer Faison Reported on behalf of Bernetta Watkins

- The Finance Committee met to receive information about the VACSB audit, which received a clean report, in this year's audit. Financials and tracking are according to budget. The committee unanimously voted to forward the VACSB FY24 financial statement and audit to the Board of Directors for acceptance at the October 2024 meeting, which is today. That vote will happen next on this agenda.

V. Action Items

A. Treasurer- Bernetta Watkins provided the motions on behalf of the Finance Committee

Action Items

A. Board of Directors- VACSB FY24 Financial Audit

Motion: On behalf of the VACSB Finance Committee, Jennifer Faison moved that the Board of Directors accept the FY24 finance statement as distributed.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Board of Directors - VACSB 2025-2026 Draft Budget Priorities

Motion: On behalf of the Public Policy Committee, Greg Preston moved the Board of Directors to approve the VACSB 2025-2026 Budget Priorities on page 41 of the conference program in addition to adding a budget priority for Marcus Alert funding, if necessary, as discussed in the Executive Directors forum.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

C. VACSB Membership - VACSB 2025-2026 Draft Budget Priorities

Motion: On behalf of the Public Policy Committee, Greg Preston moved the VACSB Membership to approve the VACSB 2025-2026 Budget Priorities on page 41 of the conference program in addition to adding a budget priority for Marcus Alert funding, if necessary, as discussed in the Executive Directors forum.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

D. **VACSB Membership (Motion from the Public Policy Committee to membership):** Clearinghouse Committee authorization for the 2025 General Assembly

Motion: On behalf of the Public Policy Committee, Greg Preston moved that the VACSB Membership authorize the VACSB Clearinghouse Committee to be empowered to make decisions and to take action on legislative and budget issues on behalf of the VACSB during the 2025 General Assembly Session.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

E. **Board of Directors (Motion from the Public Policy Committee to Board of Directors):** Clearinghouse Committee authorization for the 2025 General Assembly

Motion: On behalf of the Public Policy Committee, Greg Preston moved that the Board of Directors authorize the VACSB Clearinghouse Committee to be empowered to make decisions and to take action on legislative and budget issues on behalf of the VACSB during the 2025 General Assembly Session.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

F. **VACSB Membership:** Board Recommended Proposed VACSB FY26 Budget: Bernetta Watkins reported that The VACSB Board of Directors approved the proposed FY 25 26 budget at the July 20th, 2024 Board of Directors meeting for a recommendation of consideration by the membership. The FY 25 26 budget was emailed to members for review in August of 2024. No questions or comments were received. On behalf of the VACSB finance Committee, Bernetta Watkins recommended approval of the VACSB FY26 proposed budget by the membership.

Motion: On behalf of the VACSB Finance Committee, Bernetta Watkins moved the VACSB Membership to approve the proposed VACSB FY26 budget.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Council Reports

A. Children and Family Services Council- Cathy Brown reported the following for the Council:

- Upon the committee meeting the previous day, positive comments were made about the Public Policy Conference and the breakout sessions attended were found to be very helpful.
- Hannah Schweitzer, VMAP Coordinator, from DBHDS also met with the council to provide updates including: VMAP is releasing an equity report and has expanded to include services for mothers and children and are looking to expand to substance use prevention for early childhood treatment. A stakeholders meeting will be held on December 9th, 2024 in Richmond, VA.
- Promotions at DBHDS: Heather Norton is now Deputy Commissioner for Community Services, which is a new position, and Matthew Frusher is going to be the SUD coordinator for the Child and Family department.
- The council discussed the school-based mental health language which has been changed. There was a pilot; after the pilot the funds were moved over to DOE which is now looking at FQHC models for working with schools. Schools have to create those partnerships and apply to DOE for funding.
- Jon Hamrick from Commonwealth Center was not present, however, the group discussed concerns about some of the CSBs that have high utilization rates and how to mitigate for that. There high utilization rates are typically related to a higher population of children in foster care in those localities.
- OCS was not present, however the CSA conference will be held on October 16th and 17th at the Hotel Roanoke.
- The Behavioral Health Redesign was discussed, further details were not provided on this yet. Primary concern was feeling strongly about the discussion of using the Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment as a standard assessment instrument. Council members have concerns due to this not being a clinical tool.

B. Developmental Services Council: Shannon Clark reported the following for the Council:

- Part C update from Ms. Patterson reflected that # of children being served has increased as expected. Initial budgets for local systems are reflecting deficits thus far, possibly leading to requests for more funding. A proposed fast-track to allow additional disciplines to provide services within Part C was made as well as revisions to the practice manual, due to the addition of telehealth options and the initiation of TRAC-IT. TRAC-IT is now operational and in full force mode currently.
- Eric Williams provided updates in Heather Norton's absence. He indicated that DBHDS is hopeful to be on a path forward for a permanent injunction as a next step in the negotiations with the judge and DOJ.
- WaMS now includes the new ISP which was implemented with some glitches which are being worked out.

- Waiver Support updates: A new vendor for the SIS; PCG, is in the initial stages of figuring out their portal and what that looks like. There will be a little lag in getting SIS-A filled out due to transition in vendors.
 - The Customized Rate Guide was released. Service authorizations will be processed automatically and there will be a pilot of the new process prior to implementation. A couple of CSBs may be asked to test out what this process looks like. This process would apply to congregate residential, sponsored in-home, group home, group day, community engagement, personal assistance and respite. In order for an individual to qualify for automatic approval an individual will need to have been engaged in services for 2-3 years.
 - Britt Welch talked about Marcus Alert and participation.
 - Ann Bevin gave regional reports that included information about staffing challenges and workforce issues.
 - A special recognition was given to Region 4 for collaborative training with Central State in regards to state hospital admissions and discharge processes for individuals that have co-occurring, IDD diagnosis.
 - The group discussed the closure of Hiram Davis medical center and the importance of residential/support services that they provide for individuals. Highlighting the importance of advocating for options for individuals with I/DD, especially dental services. The group will discuss ways to ensure these service needs can be met.
- C. Emergency Services Council: Cheryl St. John reported the following for the Council:
- On behalf of the ES chair Kim Woodley, ES co-chair Aston Morse and ES council, there was no ES report.
 - The ES council looks forward to reporting out at the legislative conference in January.
- D. Mental Health/SUD Services Council: Alisha Wright reported the following for the Council:
- A thank you was given to Meredith Nusbaum with DBHDS for coming to speak with the council regarding STEP-VA. The council had a healthy discussion about what the roadmap may look like for the CSBs and what they may be presented with in the future. Thought was also given to the intersection with Medicaid redesign and with Step-VA.
 - Jackie Donaghy with Goochland-Powhatan will now be the new Co-chair for the Mental Health Council.
 - The group heard reports about potential training options for the council and will be reaching out to Jennifer Faison for assistance. Some of the trainings could include: bringing in a consultant on change management, someone to speak about contingency management, some trainings on EBPs, including ACT, client engagement and retention (which a lot of the CSBs report is a huge issue at this time), supported employment funding and working out how to expand peer programs and integrating them into the workforce.
 - The Peer subcommittee presented on what they've done in the past year and have also developed a website with this information. They also discussed their priorities including addressing supervision of and by peer specialists, hiring and retention of peer specialists at CSBs and standards for documentation. They also discussed the potential to develop a CSB Peer Leadership Track, which will cover what a peer is, what does a peer do, and how to incorporate this track in new hire orientations. This will also help other program staff to understand the work that peers do. Including this in orientation and with the staff and teams at CSBs will help with more involvement in grant processes, getting leadership support and guidance on hiring peers, as well as sustained growth and longevity of peer services.

- Meredith Nusbaum came to speak about STEP-VA, discussing the Fidelity Review for ACT programs, and that STAC 2.0 is wrapping up. DBHDS is compiling all the changes, STAC 2.0 agreed upon as well as launching a new program workgroup.
 - Discussion will take place later this month on STEP-VA measures presented to Q&O.
 - Alethea Lambert from the Office of Recovery Services discussed the changes regarding ethics for peers. There has been a petition that has been presented regarding one of the changes they made, such as ensuring that if a peer reports that they might need some additional personal support they should not lose their certification. DBHDS intends to establish a workgroup to explore partnership for peer services with the Department of Corrections.
 - Trainings are coming soon regarding caseload sizes for peers. A peer supervisor training was recently sent out for all five regions. Due to the trainings filling up quickly, the council has asked for additional training dates.
 - The Recovery Leadership Academy had 84 graduates within the past 4 years. Applications for the next round end October 31st. The Recovery Leadership Academy is for peers to get leadership training.
 - Recovery Corps was discussed and how beneficial this is for CSBs. This program pays for peers to come and work and only technology support must be provided. This is a good way to get peers into an agency without having to pay for those positions.
 - Members were asked to think about the new ASAM 4th Edition coming out and how they are looking at planning and implementing within their organization. There is a series of trainings, but the next steps are unclear and staff have questions surrounding when they are going to start utilizing the new version.
 - A new house bill regarding recovery housing was discussed and individuals were asked to send information in if they understand the new bill and how that might affect the jurisdictions.
- E. Regional Programs Services Council: Lisa Beitz reported the following for the Council:
- Regional Programs and Services Council has moved to an ad hoc council so that they can come together when needed and when top priorities arise that cross regions are needed to discuss and collaborate around.
 - The council has not met and had no additional report at this time.
- F. Prevention Services Council: Kelly Bulin and Amanda Oakes reported the following for the Council:
- The Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness and Omni are working on a statewide salary and compensation study for prevention specialists across the state. Like other service areas, prevention departments across the state are experiencing high rates of staff turnover. That combined with stagnant block grant funding and an increased level of unfunded mandates limits the ability to recruit and retain experienced professional preventionists across the state.
 - SOR for Prevention budgets and proposals have been approved and each CSB is actively entering those into the web grant system. This is due to be completed by November 1st. Half of the proposals have already been entered into web grants and are moving through the process.
 - The FY 25 Regional Suicide Prevention Initiative, state and Federal Funds proposals have been submitted as of September 30th. The funding stream and initiative is readjusting its timeline from a federal fiscal year to a state fiscal year. As a result, there will be some changes with reporting and how the funds are being disseminated within the next six to nine months until the adjustment is complete.
 - The Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness is honored to be preparing for an onsite visit with SAMHSA which they had to apply for and is tentatively scheduled for March 2025. This is in

hopes of getting an opportunity to advocate for more robust funding across the state for prevention services.

- DBHDS and Omni are hosting a prevention summit on November 14th. There are many topics to be discussed mainly addressing the new services that are mandated: gaming and gambling, cannabis and some of the tobacco retail issues that have arisen over the last couple of years. They will be reviewing the young adult surveys that were completed for 2024 across the state.
- A funding advocacy document was developed by the Prevention Council and provided to VACSB to address the funding cliff left in the wake of ARPA and CAA funds that were provided to prevention departments across the state. Those funds will end in September of 2025. This leaves a dearth of funding for prevention offices who both hired staff during the COVID-19 pandemic and experienced unfunded mandates including problem gaming and gambling, retail cannabis, and expanded tobacco retail monitoring.
- Vaping prevention and the access of these products through retail outlets was discussed heavily. Prevention does a project called Counter Tools, going into all the retailers every two years to do merchant education training. Recently received SYNAR compliance rates, which include vendor violations. It's important to note that block grant funds are tied to the SYNAR rates. States with an increased rate of 20% or more are at risk of losing the block grant funds. Small wins last year in the public policy include licensing of the vaping stores and those vaping shops that sell vaping devices and the tax certificates for other retailers (convenience stores or grocery stores that are selling those vaping products). Many of the vape shops are also selling THC/CBD and Delta 8 products. Schools are reporting youth are vaping and not just nicotine products. VCU is doing some research with confiscated nicotine devices. That includes not only nicotine products, but other products as well.

G. Finance Directors Council: Danielle Sayre reported the following for the Council:

- The Finance Council met the previous day with 33 individuals, representing 29 boards. The group discussed:
- Marcus Alert funding and boards not receiving their funding.
- The group continues to work with DBHDS on the transition away from "little CARS".
- The STEP-VA cost report that was recently due was discussed: Regarding the Federal reimbursement process, many boards are waiting 60 to 120 days (should be received within 30 days) for reimbursement without explanation for the delay from DBHDS. The council suggested improvements to the web grant system.
- The group discussed indirect cost allocation and the few boards using them. Three boards have federally established indirect cost rates, but many boards are not doing indirect cost allocations on their reimbursement process. The council will discuss how to support more boards to be able to bill for indirect costs.
- SOR funding started four days ago, and award amounts have not yet been given on treatment and recovery. Workforce funding was also discussed.
- The CFO workgroup has been reconvened; made up of one representative from each of the regions and offices of Finance Councils, and other willing individuals.
- Nathan Miles' Money Talks Conference Workshop Session info: the Finance Council will be meeting with DBHDS beginning the fourth week of October. No further details have been given yet. A list of the CFOs that will be participating will be sent to Nathan to start discussing reporting changes and overall issues.

H. Quality Leadership Council: Laura Davis reported the following for the Council:

- Britt Welch, DBHDS Office of Quality Management Updates: Discussed major initiatives such as MART, expanded consultation, and TA. Several CSBs had good feedback for them. The Office of Licensing may not be able to finish issuing all the new crisis licensing by Oct. 17th deadline sent by DMAS. Along with DBHDS doing new crisis licensing, DMAS has specific CPT codes, some are new, and some are not that go along with those new licenses, will need to ensure the ability to access to those CPT codes when billing through Medicaid. The deadline to start using new CPT codes is October 17th, bringing the issue up with not having the license. DMAS is aware of the issue and is working with DBHDS to resolve and will work around this for those that don't have license in time.
- DMAS Survey is encouraged to complete to provide input about mental health redesign. It also provides an opportunity to address certain concerns and give feedback on aspects such as CANS Functional assessments not aligning with DBHDS.
- Issues have arisen with office of licensing as a lot of CSBs are finding difficulty getting locations and services added through connect. A meeting will be set up with the DBHDS office that reviews the modification applications to discuss these increased challenges.
- A memo was issued by the Office of Human Rights who has added some non-controversial updates to the human rights regulations, to help make regulations more understandable to providers and the people we serve. These updates are out for public comments and are encouraged to review. A small language change around due dates was noted for review.

I. Human Resources: Crystal Homer reported the following for the Council:

- The HR Council met on the previous day, having 28 attendees.
- Mike Gardner was a guest from Woods Rogers and gave legal updates around Virginia laws and federal laws focusing on the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act enacted in June, in addition to EOC and DOL situations to be on the lookout for. There is a potential salary threshold change in 2025 for exempt workers (could be potentially locked before December 31st), threshold would be increased to 56,668.
- Workforce reporting: the council is working with Craig Camidge (could not be present for meeting) to tweak the process for tracking workforce reporting data and compensation averages required by the general assembly reporting that will be viewed on the dashboard. Some averages from FY24 in certain categories were skewed due to the formula error which is being worked on for correction. Changes to the worksheet were discussed due to its increasing complexity with more information.
- The HR council and several HR staff, over 60 attendees, had a Zoom with Malinda Roberts in August regarding the barrier crimes changes that occurred in July. This was reviewed in person again with everyone and discussed to make sure everyone understood. The meeting was recorded via Zoom and has been sent out to the HR council. The council has been asked to share this broadly. Malinda was still working through some nuances and plans to provide additional briefings in the future. The group noted that these changes apply only to individuals wishing to work in adult SUD or adult MH programs and do not apply to children's services of any kind, nor DD services.
- Other best practices in general HR items were shared, the council is planning on meeting again before the next conference via Zoom.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Administrative Policy Committee- Mark Chadwick reported the following on behalf of the committee:

- The committee met on Wednesday and was excited to welcome Ellen Harrison as the new Vice Chair.

- The group will work to ensure that future meeting invitations include a representative from each of the councils.
 - The committee will be meeting at least once a month between now and March to review changes to the Performance Contract.
- B. Public Policy- Greg Preston Reported the following on behalf of the committee:
- The Public Policy Committee continues to meet regularly and all are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the VACSB budget priorities with the understanding that we may need to add a budget request to support the implementation of future Marcus Alert sites.
- C. Regulatory Committee
- Nothing to report.
- D. Service Development
- Nothing to report.
- E. Quality and Outcomes- Melissa Lucy reported the following on behalf of the committee
- STEP-VA: Phase 2 is approximately 80% complete. The draft STEP-VA Manual has been sent out to STAC participants and are looking for feedback as this will be a live document and will be continuously updated.
 - The cost reporting exercise is almost complete with approximately 32 out of 40 CSBs having submitted their information. The survey for Peer and Family Services was sent out through STAC. The deadline for the survey was September 19th and the results of the feedback will be shared at the next STAC meeting.
 - The DBHDS data team is currently reviewing and refining the benchmarks and performance measures. Details will be shared as they become available.
 - A review of the case management service was presented by Meredith Nussbaum at the last STAC meeting.
 - Care coordination information will be presented at the next STAC meeting.
 - Q and O will review new benchmark measurements at its October meeting.
 - Regarding the Outpatient Block Grant Indicator, Becca Bodansky gave an update on the survey. This measure currently includes outpatient services, medical services, intensive outpatient, and ACT. While DBHDS proposed sending the survey only to the Q and O to review, Q and O participants felt strongly that it needed to go out to all CSBs. A final decision on how to proceed has not been made.
- F. Training and Development: Lisa Bietz reported the following on behalf of the committee:
- The Training and Development Committee focuses its attention on the May conference. An email was sent out for conference topic workshop requests and all proposals need to be submitted by 31 OCT 2024.

VIII. Regional Reports

- A. Region 1 – Rebekah Brubaker reported the following for Region 1:
- Region 1 continues to meet twice a month. Support is given to several team members as they're setting up CRCs and navigating the challenges.
 - This year a training series was added for supervisors and managers regarding leadership. The training emphasized the need to continue to grow the next generation of leaders within organizations and being intentional about creating those opportunities for staff.
- B. Region 2 – Margaret Graham reported the following for Region 2:
- On June 11th the Chantilly Crisis Stabilization Unit opened 16 beds in partnership with Connections. From opening through August, 131 people have been served. 72 or 55% of the admissions were temporary detention orders. The region is looking forward to continuing this

momentum through the opening of a full crisis receiving stabilization center in Woodbridge in 2025. The center will provide urgent psychiatric care, 23-hour stabilization and crisis stabilization units, beds for both adults and children.

- in September, region two hosted the second regional support coordination conference. This conference was well received by 90 plus support coordinators as of July 1st, 2024. All five region two CSBs have launched Marcus Alert ahead of schedule. A regional permanent supportive housing investment of five and a half million was given to expand units for use with future permanent supportive housing providers.

C. Region 3

- There was no report given due to the devastating impact of the hurricane.

D. Region 4- Melba Moore reported the following on behalf of Region 4:

- Crisis system transformation updates: Region 4 leadership has embarked upon a crisis mapping exercise in partnership with Henrico Area and Hanover CSBs alongside GIS experts. The first priority is to map the existing ways in which individuals access crisis services. Examples include CRCs, CSUs, hospital emergency departments, etc. and to look at drive times and travel distance to reach these sites, and then use this information to inform decisions around addressing service area gaps.
- Marketing and Educational Developments: Region 4 developed and began distributing a crisis care services informational poster and set of FAQs, targeted at educating CSB staff and primary partners about the various resources underway for broader referral and community education.
- Region 4 had its first youth CRC open in April. It's operated by St. Joseph's Villa in partnership with Henrico area MHDS. It continues to operate 24/7, accepting admissions 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM daily and there are plans underway to accept admissions 24/7
- Region 4's first adult CRC, operated by RBHA opened its doors in July. This program is open 24/7 and currently accepts admissions Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM with plans to expand as soon as possible.
- STEP-VA Updates (outpatient capacity building): The region planned and executed the first training and development conference at the Westin Hotel in Henrico on August 21st - August 22nd. There were over 383 CSB frontline staff in attendance. Presentations covered trauma-informed care, psychological safety, ethics, peer support, veteran services, mental health assessments for those with IDD, caring for LGBTQI plus population, and more peer and family support.
- The Peer Academy began its third full year operating paid working learning experiences paired with intense training and mentoring and with opportunities at CSBs for individuals needing the 500 hours of required service towards becoming certified peer recovery specialists.
- Region 4 fully transitioned to the new DAP rate tool at the beginning of this fiscal year with very few disruptions to individuals being served in Henrico area. MHDS began the next locality in the region to fully implement Marcus Alert as of July 1st. Region four continues to support the robust Marcus alert, coordination and community level technical support, quarterly newsletters, frequent cross locality synergy sessions, and delivering regular Marcus Alert 101, style trainings.

E. Region Five- Ed Gonzales reported the following on behalf of Region 5:

- Region 5 is currently undergoing leadership changes due to the retirement of Demetrios and Natale. Brandon has been named the new executive director at Western Tidewater, Daphne Cunningham, with Hampton-New Newport News is the interim and Dr. Nate Woodard, is now the new executive director at Norfolk CSB with John Quinn, the interim Executive Director at Portsmouth.

- Hampton-Newport News' CRC and new CSU are still under development. Construction continues with an anticipated completion date in January followed by a grand opening in February.
- The Opioid Abatement funded treatment bus, should be up and running by the end of the year at the Hampton Newport News CSBs, as well as enhanced services in the jails, and two peer drop off centers.
- Prevention teams and Peer Recovery Specialists have completed successful community campaigns, celebrating recovery and suicide prevention months.
- Plans are underway to host the legislative breakfast event in the coming months.

IX. VACSB Reports and New Business- Jennifer Faison Reported the following:

A. Executive Directors Forum:

- Ingrid Baber discussed the DBHDS dashboard being developed. CSB EDs have had a private link to access and validate the data. CSBs have opportunities to use this data when applying for grants. The link will be formalized and put in portal, so it is password protected.
- Andrew Diefenthaler, Chief of Staff at DBHDS formally CFO, answered several finance questions.
- The issue of Marcus Alert funding was briefly discussed: there are six CSBs that were in planning for the launch of Marcus Alert and the department discovered that they did not have any funding to support the implementation once the plans were complete (about \$600,000 per program). The department did submit a request for funding as part of their decision package. The results will be in Governor's budget. We will be prepared as an association to submit an amendment that would cover not only those six CSBs, but the remaining CSBs that have yet to implement their Marcus Alert programs. The initial assessment for how much it would cost to run a Marcus Alert program was \$900,000 while current programs only get \$600,000. An additional \$300,000 for those sites that are already established will be requested. The amount of money we would be requesting for the remaining CSBs, including filling the gap for the six would be at \$900,000 a program. This is what that amendment will include should these funds not be included in the Governor's budget.
- Advocacy work on the budget amendments will start now, talking points will be sent out. Talking points should have also been received along with public policy brochures.
- The VACSB will provide support and facilitate meetings with legislators (both virtual and in person) and will also be contacting legislators.
- Discussions with legislators should also point out the fact that the CSBs are the single point of entry into our behavioral health and DD system because there are two things in play right now that might erode that important role. The first is the pilot at Riverside hospital which allows for individuals other than CSB prescreeners to conduct prescreening evaluations. The second is the risk of losing targeted case management as a sole function of the CSBs during the course of the behavioral health redesign currently under way at DMAS.
- Interim studies are going on, which are legislatively mandated studies that came out the general assembly. CSBs are invited to a lot of these meetings, those interested in the outcomes from those, review the Public Policy Committee outcomes. The most concerning of these interim studies came about as a result of a bill that would have disallowed anyone with DD, dementia, or traumatic brain injury who didn't also have a diagnosis of mental illness from being admitted to a state hospital. While it is not the best treatment setting for an individual with these neurocognitive issues, it is the setting that exists, and without building out other placements and other capacities, this can't be taken off the table until a replacement is available.

- Participants at yesterday's ED Forum also briefly discussed a request that has to do with the number of tests that are required for state hospital admissions. Will try to walk back to the original list of tests previously agreed upon.
- Will be putting a workgroup together to begin to think about EMS transport to CRCs as an option. We will need to figure out and work through its complexity with EMS partners.
- We also discussed the CCBHC model and STEP-VA, and the intersection between the two, as well as a desire to pivot as an association to take on more of the work of aligning STEP-VA with CCBHC as the work with DBHDS does not seem to be progressing beyond the kinds of conversations we've been having with them for a year or more.

X. Executive Director's Report- Jennifer Faison had nothing further to report.

XI. Other Items/Announcements

- Jennifer thanked everyone for supporting the association, adding her appreciation for how many problems the councils are solving in the system.

XII. Future Meetings

- Next Meeting of VACSB Board of Directors: December 10th, 2024. - VACSB Conference Room & Zoom

XIII. Adjourn



VACSB 2024-2025 Calendar

Executive Directors Forums

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 23, 2024 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 3, 2024 | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| December 10, 2024 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| January 21, 2025 | Richmond Marriott Downtown |
| March 11, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| May 8, 2025 | Norfolk Marriott Waterside |
| July 22, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 2, 2025 | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| December 9, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |

VACSB Board of Directors Meetings

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 24, 2024 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 4, 2024 | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| December 11, 2024 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| January 22, 2025 | Richmond Marriott Downtown |
| March 12, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| May 9, 2025 | Norfolk Marriott Waterside |
| July 23, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 3, 2025 | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| December 10, 2025 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |

*****All meetings that take place at the VACSB and will begin at 10:00 AM and are available via Zoom*****

Dedicated Zoom access

Meeting ID: 316 321 4197

Passcode: 3303141

Or by one click: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3163214197?pwd=ZTVYMndhNzhJNXplWWlrVctaSnRoUT09>

VACSB Conference Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| October 2-4, 2024 | ◆ | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| January 21-22, 2025 | ◆ | Richmond Marriott Downtown |
| May 7-9, 2025 | ◆ | Norfolk Marriott Waterside |
| October 1-3, 2025 | ◆ | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards Budget Priorities for the 2025 General Assembly Session

The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) will support amendments from its advocacy partners once they are advanced.

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 a 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 \$8.7M to cover CSB expenses incurred between the time a support coordinator is hired and when s/he can carry a full caseload and begin billing Medicaid.**

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES: VACSB is requesting a **\$5.7M 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 **\$17.2M to support 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 (\$6.4M), Opioid Treatment Program (\$4.9M), Partial Hospitalization Program (\$3.2M) and Intensive Outpatient Program (\$2.7M).** The CSBs are experiencing workforce challenges in all areas of service, 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 \$8M increase in general funds dedicated to prevention services.** This will allow the CSB prevention staff to continue a robust array of services in every community of the Commonwealth.

MARCUS ALERT PROGRAMS: An anomaly in the state’s budgeting process overlooked planned funding for implementation for 6 Marcus Alert programs. This is a state mandated co-response model that also integrates 911 dispatch with the 988 crisis line. Both of these elements combine to provide opportunities to divert individuals in crisis from the criminal justice system as well as potentially from inpatient hospitalization. **The 6 sites that were supposed to implement in 2024 had completed their planning but the funding to support implementation was not in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services’ budget.** As such, the VACSB is requesting

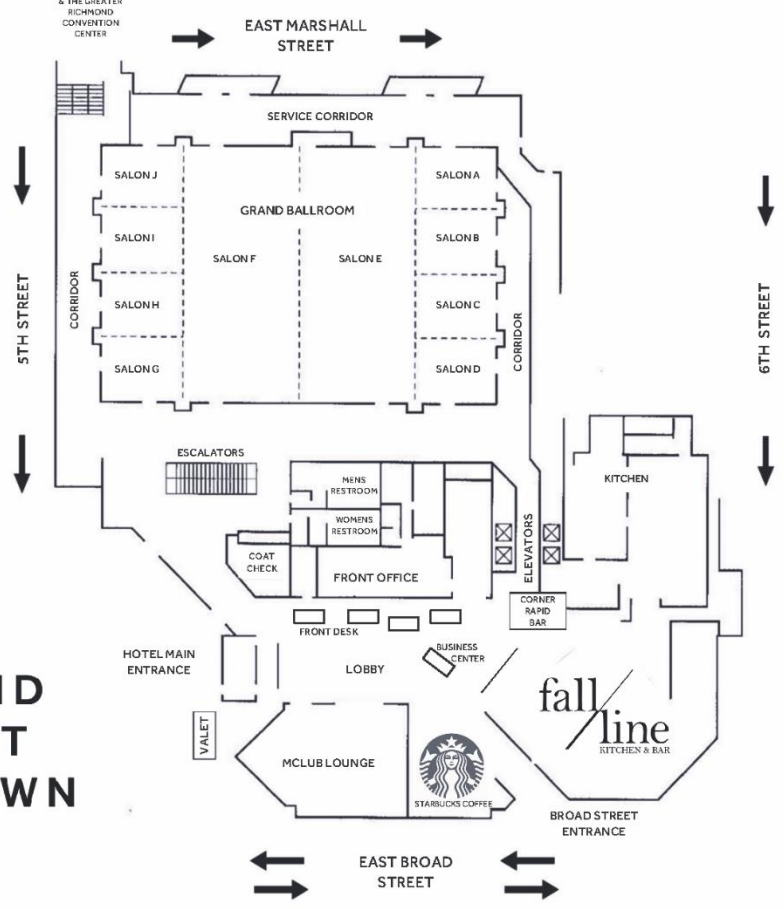
\$18M to support the 6 sites that have completed their planning as well as an additional 6 sites, which will allow us to keep pace to have all of the programs in place by 2028, which is when the code language dictates every locality in Virginia with a population of fewer than 40K has to have implemented a Marcus Alert program. The funding will also bring all programs, those that have already been implemented and future programs to a funding level that comports with the original cost estimate provided by the Department of Planning and Budget when the mandate passed in 2020.

RESTORATION OF COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL: The VACSB requests \$1.5M to increase the reimbursement rate for restoration of competency to stand trial services and supports, allow for increased capacity to provide restoration on an outpatient basis and provide training to clinicians. DBHDS exhausted the funding to reimburse CSBs for the evaluations and restoration services in each of the past 6 years, leaving CSBs with an unfunded mandate. At the same time, the state has made providing outpatient restoration services a priority in order to relieve the pressure on state psychiatric facilities which have seen a dramatic increase in forensic admissions, many of which are due to the need for restoration services which may be offered on an outpatient basis if funding were sufficient.

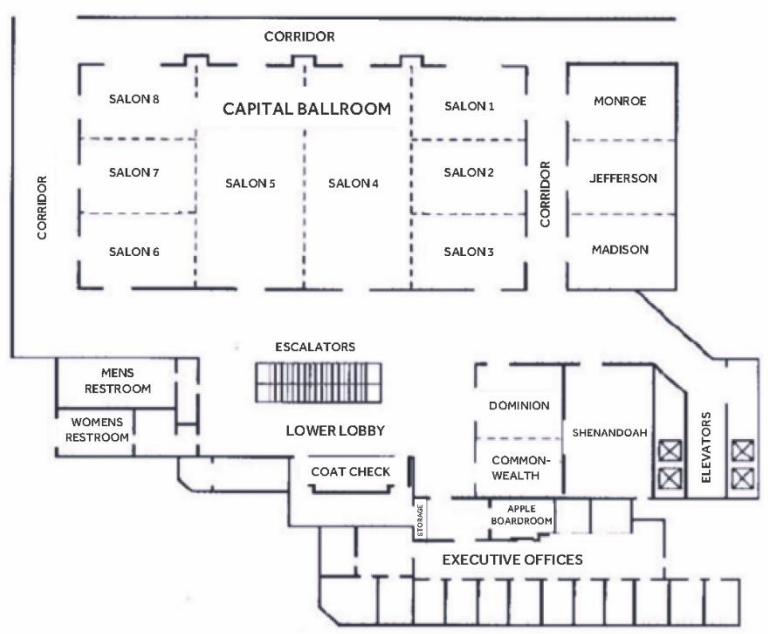


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2017 Ives Lane
North Chesterfield, VA 23235



+1 (804) - 399 - 7162



d.jennings@believe-n-u.com



www.believe-n-u.com

