



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

**October 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hotel Roanoke**  
**Roanoke, VA**



# **2025 Public Policy Conference**

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## Welcome Message from the VACSB Board Chair



On behalf of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, I am honored to welcome you to the 2025 Public Policy Conference at the Hotel Roanoke. We're excited to have you with us and look forward to connecting through shared ideas, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to shape the field of behavioral health and developmental disability services together. If this is your first VACSB conference, I extend a special welcome to you and hope this will mark the beginning of your continued involvement in future conferences.

On Wednesday, we are pleased to present a luncheon message, ***CCBHC & Opportunities through the CCBHC Model***, presented by **Brett Beckerson, MSW, Sr. Director, Policy & Strategy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing**. This session is designed to explore the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model, while highlighting the opportunities for implementation within Virginia.

The Wednesday afternoon workshops begin at 1:30 pm and, after a 30-minute refreshment break, the 2<sup>nd</sup> set begins at 3:30 pm. We would not be able to provide in-depth and current information in this setting without support from our state agency partners as well as CSB/BHA staff who have agreed to share knowledge with their colleagues. We offer them a special thanks.

The highlights of our Public Policy Conference include the Public Policy Panel and the Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon. Our Public Policy Panel presentation will include Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia; Nelson Smith, Commissioner, DBHDS; Cheryl Roberts, Director, DMAS; R. Creigh Deeds, Senate of Virginia and Sam Rasoul, Virginia House of Delegates.

The distinguished panel will apprise the audience of current issues, programs, and challenges facing the Commonwealth. Following a brief presentation by each panelist and a 15-minute comfort break, the question-and-answer period will provide stakeholders the opportunity to submit written questions to the panel members. Our thanks to Becky Bowers-Lanier for serving as moderator and all of our panelists for making the time to be with us.

While we will be celebrating the work and advocacy of this year's Gartlan Award winner, we also encourage you to take a moment to recognize and appreciate not only their contributions, but your own, and those of others who play a vital role in the mission we all share. The award honors the late Senator Gartlan for his 28 years in the Virginia Senate and his tireless work as Chair of the HHR Subcommittee of Senate Finance. Senator Gartlan's legacy lives on with this award, and we are honored to have Peter Gartlan with us to present the award.

I am honored to serve as your VACSB Chair, and I sincerely thank you for your hard work, commitment, and service. Enjoy the conference and your visit to Roanoke.

*Gib Sloan*

## CONFERENCE NOTES & INFORMATION

### **Name Badges**

The VACSB and the hotel request that conference attendees wear name badges during all VACSB functions for security and identification purposes.

### **Visit and Thank the Exhibitors and Sponsors**

Exhibitors and sponsors support VACSB conferences. We encourage you to visit and thank them for their participation.

### **Session Handouts on VACSB Website**

Handouts and presentations will be posted on the VACSB website as permitted and shared by the presenters. Please check with the presenter to see if the session handouts will be available online before requesting additional paper handouts be printed/mailed to attendees.

### **Session Seating**

Scheduling rooms for sessions is one of the most difficult of all conference tasks. We do our best to schedule topics, rooms, and presenters in ways to maximize conference space. There may be occasions when sessions draw many more participants than expected. In those instances, please be patient about the seating and/or consider another concurrent session. For sessions in which you are particularly interested, we strongly suggest you arrive as early as possible.

### **Contact Hours**

DBHDS is sponsoring contact hours for attendance at workshops, general sessions, and luncheons. Certificates will be available at the registration desk at the end of the day on Wednesday and Thursday with a combined certificate available Thursday afternoon. Certificates will not be available on Friday.



**Don't forget to pick up  
your CEUs at the  
registration desk!**

# Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

## 2025 Public Policy Conference at a Glance

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        |                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9:30 am – 5:00 pm                                       | VACSB Registration Desk Open<br>Exhibit Center Open <b>(BREAKFAST ON OWN)</b>                                                                          |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        | North Entry<br>Crystal Foyer |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm                                     | CONFERENCE OPENS – Buffet Luncheon                                                                                                                     |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        | Roanoke A/B/C/D              |
| 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm                                      | Keynote: CCBHC & Opportunities through the CCBHC Model<br>Brett Beckerson, MSW, Sr. Director, Policy & Strategy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        |                              |
| 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm                                       | Conference Workshops (concurrent)                                                                                                                      |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        |                              |
| <i>Wilson</i>                                           | <i>Crystal A/B/C</i>                                                                                                                                   | <i>Monroe</i>                                                     | <i>Crystal D/E</i>                                      | <i>Buck Mountain</i>                                   |                              |
| Ethical and Legal Duties to Avoid Conflicts of Interest | Rescissions, Rancor, and Budget Reconciliation: A Federal Policy Update                                                                                | Aging with Care: Integrating Zero Suicide into Geriatric Services | DMAS Behavioral Health Services Redesign Project Update | The Impact of Social Media on Children and Adolescents |                              |
| 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm                                       | Refreshment Break in Exhibit Center                                                                                                                    |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        |                              |
| 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm                                       | Conference Workshops (concurrent)                                                                                                                      |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        |                              |
| <i>Wilson</i>                                           | <i>Crystal A/B/C</i>                                                                                                                                   | <i>Monroe</i>                                                     | <i>Crystal D/E</i>                                      | <i>Buck Mountain</i>                                   |                              |
| Public Behavioral Health Ethics                         | Navigating Conflict with Confidence: Strategies for Teams and Leaders                                                                                  | Status Report on Opioid Abatement Projects Across Virginia        | DMAS Behavioral Health Services Redesign Project Update | Brain Injury Screening and Supports                    |                              |
| 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm                                       | Welcome Reception - Sponsored by Iris Telehealth (Complimentary Hors d’oeuvres & Cash Bar)                                                             |                                                                   |                                                         |                                                        | Garden Courtyard             |

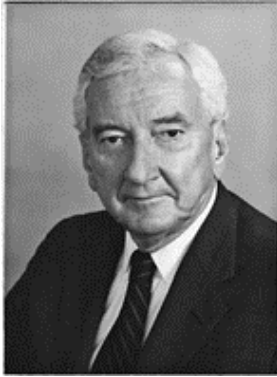
### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  | Registration & Exhibit Center Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | North Entry/Crystal Foyer                                                                                  |
| 8:00 am – 9:30 am  | Continental Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Crystal Foyer                                                                                              |
| 9:30 am – 12:00 pm | <b>2025 Virginia Public Policy Panel Presentation</b><br>Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia<br>Nelson Smith, Commissioner, DBHDS<br>Cheryl Roberts, Director, DMAS<br>R. Creigh Deeds, Senate of Virginia<br>Sam Rasoul, Virginia House of Delegates                                                                                                                                                    | Roanoke A/B/C/D                                                                                            |
| 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm | <b>2025 Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Roanoke A/B/C/D                                                                                            |
| 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  | <b>CSB/BHA Board Member Workshop – Telling Stories, Building Support</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Buck Mountain                                                                                              |
| 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  | <b>Group Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Directors Forum</li> <li>Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders Services Councils</li> <li>Emergency Services Council</li> <li>Human Resources Directors Council</li> <li>Quality Leadership Council</li> <li>Developmental Services Council</li> <li>Children and Family Services Council</li> <li>Prevention Services Council</li> <li>Finance Directors Council</li> </ul> | Wilson<br>Crystal D/E<br>Monroe<br>Tinker<br>Mill<br>Crystal A/B/C<br>Brush<br>Harrison-Tyler<br>Jefferson |
| 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  | Refreshment Break in Exhibit Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                            |
| 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm  | <b>Networking Reception - Sponsored by DLG Strategic</b> (Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Garden Courtyard                                                                                           |

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

|                    |                                                        |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8:00 am – 11:00 am | Registration Desk Open                                 | North Entry      |
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am  | Buffet Breakfast                                       | Crystal Foyer    |
| 9:00 am – adjourn  | Combined Board of Directors and VACSB Business Meeting | Crystal Ballroom |

Honoring the Achievements of  
The Honorable Joseph Vincent Gartlan, Jr.  
1925 - 2008



Just before Senator Gartlan's 2000 retirement from public life, the VACSB established the annual Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award for Leadership and Advocacy, first presented in October of 1999. Each of the individuals who have received the award has distinguished him/herself in leadership and advocacy for individuals with mental illness, developmental disability, and/or substance use disorders.

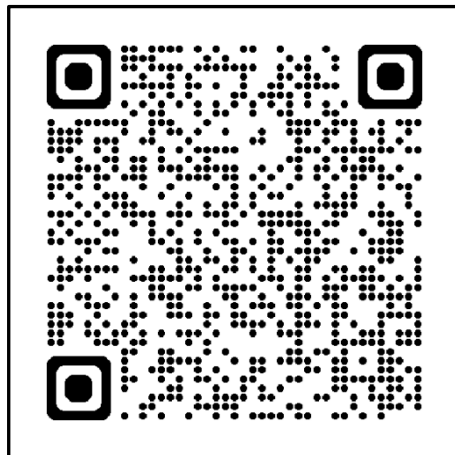
Throughout the years, the late Senator Gartlan was able to be with the VACSB to proudly present the award and to delight us with his sparkling humor and his ebullience. We honor his being with us in spirit and will always hold his memory dear, particularly each October upon the presentation of this award in his name. We are honored that his family members help us continue the tradition of presenting the award.

The VACSB is proud of each of the recipients of the award for their leadership and advocacy, as well as for the thousands of Virginians statewide who work each day to facilitate recovery and independence.

### RECENT GARTLAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024, Debbie O. Burcham  
2023, Bea Dahlen  
2022, Karen Grizzard  
2021, Jennifer Spangler  
2020, The 40 CSBs & Behavioral Health Authority  
2019, Jennifer Fidura  
2018, Mary Ann Bergeron  
2017, Howard Cullum  
2016, Gary A. Ambrose  
2015, Anthony W. Soltys, Colonel (Ret.) U.S. Army

*\* For a complete list of all Gartlan Award recipients & description, use the QR Code.*





## Virginia Association of Community Services Boards 2025 Public Policy Conference Exhibitors & Sponsors

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The VACSB is grateful for the support of our generous sponsors and exhibitors. Their robust participation helps to ensure future conferences will continue to provide you with quality workshops and keynote speakers. **Please stop by the exhibit area to learn how their businesses can be of service to you.**

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## EXHIBITORS

|                                             |                                    |                                      |                                        |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Altruix</b>                              | <b>Atlantic Outreach Group</b>     | <b>BeBold Recovery</b>               | <b>Butler Human Services Furniture</b> | <b>Chestnut Ridge Foam, Inc.</b>    |
| <b>Community Alternatives, Inc.</b>         | <b>Compass Behavioral Group</b>    | <b>ContinuumCloud</b>                | <b>Core Solutions, Inc.</b>            | <b>Crossroads Treatment Centers</b> |
| <b>Disability Determination Services</b>    | <b>Dominion Care</b>               | <b>Eleos Health</b>                  | <b>enCircle</b>                        | <b>Freedom Recovery Centers</b>     |
| <b>Genoa Healthcare</b>                     | <b>Grafton</b>                     | <b>Hansel Union Consulting, PLLC</b> | <b>Indivior, Inc.</b>                  | <b>Iris Telehealth</b>              |
| <b>Iron Bridge Recovery Center</b>          | <b>Mainspring Recovery</b>         | <b>Mental Health Virginia</b>        | <b>Netsmart</b>                        | <b>Qualifacts</b>                   |
| <b>Richmond Behavioral Health Authority</b> | <b>Safe Harbor Recovery Center</b> | <b>Shineforth</b>                    | <b>The Pavilion</b>                    | <b>UHS Hospitals</b>                |
|                                             |                                    | <b>Wall Residences</b>               |                                        |                                     |

**Welcome Reception & Networking Reception Sponsored by:**





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Our team of expert staff includes licensed clinicians, BCBAs, MSWs, RNs, knowledgeable policy analysts, and trainers in all aspects of service delivery, person-centered thinking, and positive behavioral support.

## Continually Recruit, Train, and Support New Providers

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## VACSB 2025 Public Policy Conference Schedule

| Wednesday, October 1, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| (Breakfast on Own)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             | ROOM                                         |
| 9:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Exhibit Center and VACSB Registration Desk Open                                                                                                             | Crystal Foyer/North Entry<br>Roanoke A/B/C/D |
| 11:00 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Buffet Luncheon                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 12:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | CCBHC & Opportunities through the CCBHC Model<br>Presented by: Brett Beckerson, MSW, Sr. Director, Policy & Strategy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing |                                              |
| The CCBHC model is an integrated model for substance use and mental health care that ensures each clinic has a site-specific bundled Medicaid rate that covers the costs for the service area. Virginia has the opportunity to join a CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration, which would provide the state with an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate for a 4-year period. This session will review the CCBHC model, including its criteria, payment, and quality measures requirements, as well as the opportunities for Virginia to establish the model. |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| Learning Objectives:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 1. Understand the CCBHC Model                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 2. Review options for Virginia's adoption of the CCBHC model                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 3. Review the level of effort needed by clinics to be certified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 1:15 – 1:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Stretch & Comfort Break                                                                                                                                     |                                              |
| 1:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Conference Workshops (Concurrent)                                                                                                                           |                                              |
| Ethical and Legal Duties to Avoid Conflicts of Interest                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             | Wilson                                       |
| Presented by: Jonathan M. Joseph, Partner, Christian & Barton, L.L.P.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| This session will highlight strategies and tools that CSB staff and board members should keep in mind in carrying out their public duties. Important factors will include spotting board member and staff conflicts of interest; safeguarding client rights and confidentiality, especially in relationship to HIPAA regulations; and understanding Virginia’s Public Procurement Act.                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| Learning Objectives:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 1. Recognize the ethical and legal requirements for confidentiality, conflict of interest and procurement conflict of interest compliance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 2. Identify potential ethical issues before they become legal or reputational risks for board members or staff.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 3. Gain sensitivity to the legal regulations guiding transparency and accountability for public bodies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| Rescissions, Rancor, and Budget Reconciliation: A Federal Policy Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             | Crystal A/B/C                                |
| Presented by: Jonah C. Cunningham, President & CEO, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| These are unprecedented times for federal policy. There is a lot of uncertainty from the proposed reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services to changes on Medicaid financing. Underlying these actions are the roles of the respective branches, their checks and balances, and the downstream effect on health. Join us as we discuss recent policy developments, explore the context and background for those actions, and highlight strategies for policymaker engagement.                                                   |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| Learning Objectives:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 1. Share Context & Background for Policy Developments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 2. Provide Updates on Recent Actions & Preview Future Work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |
| 3. Give Tools for Education & Outreach to Policymakers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             |                                              |

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| <p><b>Aging with Care: Integrating Zero Suicide into Geriatric Services</b></p> <p><b>Presented by:</b> Samantha Crockett, M.S., Senior Director, Wellness and Community Engagement, Mount Rogers Community Services and Lori Gates-Addison, MSW, LCSW, Director of Child &amp; Family Services and Prevention, Cumberland Mountain Community Services</p> <p>This workshop explores how integrating Zero Suicide principles into geriatric services can reduce suicide risk, strengthen protective factors, and improve overall well-being for older adults. Aging populations, particularly in rural communities, face unique behavioral health challenges, including isolation and limited access to care. Participants will learn how caring transitions, such as consistent follow-up, emotional support, and proactive outreach, play a vital role in preventing crises among older adults. Through case examples and practical strategies, this session will highlight how programs like Are You Okay? foster resilience, connection, and continuity of care. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to enhance geriatric services, reduce stigma, and build a more connected, compassionate system of support for aging community members.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize the unique behavioral health challenges facing older adults – explore how factors such as social isolation and limited access to services contribute to suicide risk among aging populations, particularly in rural communities.</li> <li>2. Apply Zero Suicide principles to geriatric services – learn how the Transition Essential Element, including consistent follow-ups and caring contacts, can be integrated into aging services to strengthen protective factors and reduce the likelihood of crises.</li> <li>3. Develop actionable strategies for fostering resilience and connection – Through case examples and discussion, leave with practical tools to enhance social support, build community partnerships, and improve continuity of care for older adults.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Monroe</b></p>      |
| <p><b>DMAS Behavioral Health Services Redesign Project Update</b></p> <p><b>Presented by:</b> Lisa Jobe-Shields, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Division Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services, Heather Norton, MSW, Deputy Commissioner, Community Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Laura Reed, LCSW, Behavioral Health Senior Program Advisor, Department of Medical Assistance Services</p> <p>Behavioral Health Services Redesign is a two-year project that began July 2024 to redesign legacy Medicaid rehabilitative services. The project was authorized by the General Assembly through the 2024 Appropriations Act (Item 288.XX) and is part of the Right Help. Right Now. Plan to transform Virginia’s behavioral health system. The authorizing language requires that this project retire legacy rehabilitative services (intensive in home, therapeutic day treatment, mental health skill building, and psychosocial rehabilitation), replacing them with an array of evidence-based, trauma-informed services. Budget language also authorizes the redesign of the mental health targeted case management service and requires that all changes made are budget neutral. The presentation will concentrate on giving updates and information concerning year two of implementation with a Go Live date of July 1, 2026. Topics discussed will include new draft service descriptions, provider readiness and training and additional state agency collaboration and planning.</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide Comprehensive Year Two Implementation Update - Present current progress status as the project enters its second year of the two-year timeline.</li> <li>2. Outline New Evidence-Based Service Framework and Provider Preparedness - Present the draft service descriptions for the new evidence-based, trauma-informed services that will replace legacy rehabilitative services (intensive in-home, therapeutic day treatment, mental health skill building, and psychosocial rehabilitation). Update stakeholders on provider readiness survey results, and training.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate Strategic Collaboration - Outline coordination strategies with various state agencies and stakeholder groups to ensure seamless implementation of the transformed behavioral health system.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Crystal D/E</b></p> |

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| <b>The Impact of Social Media on Children and Adolescents</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Dr. Tom Milam, Chief Medical Officer, Iris Telehealth,<br><br>Social media is a powerful force in the lives of children and adolescents, shaping how they connect, learn, and grow. Its influence reaches into homes, schools, sports, and community settings — offering both meaningful opportunities and real challenges for families and caregivers. In this session, Dr. Tom Milam will explore how social media impacts youth at different stages of development, highlighting both its positive role in cultural and interpersonal engagement and its potential risks to self-esteem, mental health, and overall well-being. Participants will learn to recognize warning signs of problematic use — such as cyberbullying, anxiety, and social withdrawal — and understand their long-term implications. Dr. Milam will also share age-appropriate, evidence-based strategies that parents, educators, and clinicians can use to foster responsible digital engagement, set healthy boundaries, and help children and adolescents build a balanced and developmentally appropriate relationship with technology.<br><br><u><b>Learning objectives:</b></u><br>1. Understand how children and adolescents are using social media across different settings, and the developmental, psychological, and social effects it can have — both positive and negative.<br>2. Recognize warning signs of problematic social media use that may impact mental health, self-esteem, and social skills, and learn how to identify vulnerable individuals.<br>3. Learn practical, age-appropriate strategies that parents, caregivers, and educators can use to promote safer, healthier, and more balanced social media habits. |                                             | <b>Buck Mountain</b> |
| <b>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Exhibit Center and Refreshment Break</b> | <b>Crystal Foyer</b> |
| <b>3:30 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Conference Workshops (Concurrent)</b>    |                      |
| <b>Public Behavioral Health Ethics</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Heather Zelle, J.D., Ph.D., Associate Director of Mental Health Policy Research; Associate Professor, University of Virginia<br><br>Ethics principles and issues will be discussed in the context of public mental health care, highlighting ethical issues that arise when conducting clinical evaluations and short-term interventions. The larger context of legal and ethical considerations will be covered, as well as more specific issues that arise and appropriate practices. Capacity to make treatment decisions and consent to treatment will be addressed. Tools and resources will be identified.<br><br><u><b>Learning Objectives:</b></u><br>1. Identify relevant ethics principles and laws underlying good clinical practice in public behavioral health care.<br>2. Discuss ethical issues, applying ethics principles.<br>3. Identify practice resources relevant to ethical public behavioral health service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                             | <b>Wilson</b>        |
| <b>Navigating Conflict with Confidence: Strategies for Teams and Leaders</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Erica Mann, MSW, LCSW, Director of Learning and Special Projects, UMFS and Nina Marino, MSW, LCSW Vice President, Program Innovation & External Affairs, UMFS<br><br>The human services field faces no shortage of challenges—high-acuity clients, workforce turnover, and teams stretched thin. These pressures often create stressed systems where conflict is frequent and problem-solving falls short. This interactive workshop tackles one of the toughest topics head-on: conflict. Participants will gain practical, adaptable tools to navigate conflict in any setting—whether with clients, colleagues, supervisors, or larger systems. Drawing from best practices in communication, collaboration, and conflict management, this session will equip you to reduce stress, strengthen relationships, and help your team operate at its best.<br><br><u><b>Learning Objectives:</b></u><br>1. Understand how our brains and bodies are connected to stress.<br>2. Understanding of teaming and change management needs as it relates to conflict.<br>3. Understand communication strategies to have more productive conflicts.<br>4. Understand conflict strategies and tools to support a variety of situations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                             | <b>Crystal A/B/C</b> |

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| <b>Status Report on Opioid Abatement Projects across Virginia</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Tony McDowell, Executive Director, Opioid Abatement Authority<br><br>This presentation will provide attendees with a summary of how opioid settlement funds can be used in Virginia to support substance use and behavioral health initiatives and will also provide highlights of CSB-led projects supported with opioid settlement funds.<br><br><b>Learning Objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand how CSBs can access opioid settlement funds to expand services for substance use services.</li> <li>2. Identify the allowable uses and restrictions on the use of opioid settlement funds.</li> <li>3. Provide some examples of Virginia CSBs using opioid settlement funds for prevention, treatment and recovery.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                       | Monroe           |
| <b>DMAS Behavioral Health Services Redesign Project Update</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Lisa Jobe-Shields, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Division Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services, Heather Norton, MSW, Deputy Commissioner, Community Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Laura Reed, LCSW, Behavioral Health Senior Program Advisor, Department of Medical Assistance Services<br><br>Behavioral Health Services Redesign is a two-year project that began July 2024 to redesign legacy Medicaid rehabilitative services. The project was authorized by the General Assembly through the 2024 Appropriations Act (Item 288.XX) and is part of the Right Help. Right Now. Plan to transform Virginia’s behavioral health system. The authorizing language requires that this project retire legacy rehabilitative services (intensive in home, therapeutic day treatment, mental health skill building, and psychosocial rehabilitation), replacing them with an array of evidence-based, trauma-informed services. Budget language also authorizes the redesign of the mental health targeted case management service and requires that all changes made are budget neutral. The presentation will concentrate on giving updates and information concerning year two of implementation with a Go Live date of July 1, 2026. Topics discussed will include new draft service descriptions, provider readiness and training and additional state agency collaboration and planning.<br><br><b>Learning objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide Comprehensive Year Two Implementation Update - Present current progress status as the project enters its second year of the two-year timeline.</li> <li>2. Outline New Evidence-Based Service Framework and Provider Preparedness - Present the draft service descriptions for the new evidence-based, trauma-informed services that will replace legacy rehabilitative services (intensive in-home, therapeutic day treatment, mental health skill building, and psychosocial rehabilitation). Update stakeholders on provider readiness survey results, and training.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate Strategic Collaboration - Outline coordination strategies with various state agencies and stakeholder groups to ensure seamless implementation of the transformed behavioral health system.</li> </ol> |                                                                                                                       | Crystal D/E      |
| <b>Brain Injury Screening and Supports</b><br><br><b>Presented by:</b> Amy F. S. Loving, Director of Brain Injury Services, VA Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services and Donna Cantrell, M.Ed., Brain Injury Services Unit, VA Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services<br><br>This workshop will provide helpful information about brain injuries and the chronic effects some individuals experience after the injury. We will review types of brain injuries, prevalence of co-occurring conditions, ongoing support needs, and the importance of screening for brain injury at your agency. Access to the screening tool Virginia is using will be available. At the end we will provide state-wide brain injury resources.<br><br><b>Learning Objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive a brief overview of types of brain injuries and the prevalence of brain injury.</li> <li>2. Learn the importance of screening for possible brain injuries to enhance successful interventions and how to get access to the screening tool Virginia is using, the OBISSS.</li> <li>3. Leave with additional brain injury resources available in Virginia.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                       | Buck Mountain    |
| 5:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Welcome Reception - Sponsored by Iris Telehealth</b><br>Join your colleagues for light refreshments and a cash bar | Garden Courtyard |

| Thursday, October 2, 2025                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am                                                                            | Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Crystal Foyer                                                                                              |
| 9:30 am                                                                            | <b>2025 Virginia Public Policy Panel Presentation</b><br>Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia</li> <li>• Nelson Smith, Commissioner, DBHDS</li> <li>• Cheryl Roberts, Director, DMAS</li> <li>• R. Creigh Deeds, Senate of Virginia</li> <li>• Sam Rasoul, Virginia House of Delegates</li> </ul> Moderator: Becky Bowers-Lanier, VACSB Legislative Consultant, B2L Consulting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Roanoke A/B/C/D                                                                                            |
| 12:00 pm                                                                           | <b>2025 Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon</b><br>This award is given annually in honor of the recipient of the Gartlan Award, an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and advocacy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Roanoke A/B/C/D                                                                                            |
| 2:00 pm                                                                            | <b>CSB/BHA Board Member Workshop - Telling Stories, Building Support</b><br><b>Presented by: Kimberly Carlson, Ph.D., President &amp; CEO, Tractus Strategic Partners LLC and Charity Boyette, Ph.D., Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Tractus Strategic Partners, LLC</b><br><br>This interactive workshop will help board members harness the power of storytelling to build support for VACSB's mission and the work of community services boards across Virginia. Building on earlier sessions that explored personal motivations for service, participants will learn how to shape those stories outward—engaging policymakers, community leaders, and the public. Through guided practice and peer feedback, board members will leave with practical tools to share their stories in ways that foster understanding, strengthen relationships, and inspire others to stand behind the critical work of behavioral health and developmental disability services.<br><br><u><b>Learning Objectives:</b></u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transform personal motivations for board service into outward-facing stories that build understanding and support.</li> <li>2. Tailor stories to connect with diverse audiences, from policymakers to community members.</li> <li>3. Deliver concise, compelling stories that encourage others to support VACSB's mission.</li> </ol> | Buck Mountain                                                                                              |
| 2:00 pm                                                                            | <b>Group Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Directors Forum</li> <li>• Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders Services Councils</li> <li>• Emergency Services Council</li> <li>• Human Resources Directors Council</li> <li>• Quality Leadership Council</li> <li>• Developmental Services Council</li> <li>• Children and Family Services Council</li> <li>• Prevention Services Council</li> <li>• Finance Directors Council</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Wilson<br>Crystal D/E<br>Monroe<br>Tinker<br>Mill<br>Crystal A/B/C<br>Brush<br>Harrison-Tyler<br>Jefferson |
| 3:00 -3:30 pm                                                                      | Refreshments in Exhibit Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Crystal Foyer                                                                                              |
| 5:00 pm                                                                            | <b>Networking Reception - Sponsored by DLG Strategic</b> ( <i>light refreshments and cash bar</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Garden Courtyard                                                                                           |
| Friday, October 3, 2025                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |
| 8:00 am                                                                            | Registration Open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | North Entry                                                                                                |
| 8:00 am                                                                            | Buffet Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Crystal Foyer                                                                                              |
| 9:00 am                                                                            | <b>VACSB Combined Board of Directors/Membership Business Meeting – Agenda Page 28</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Crystal Ballroom                                                                                           |
| <i>The conference concludes with the adjournment of the Board/Business Meeting</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |

## Conference Faculty

**Brett Beckerson, MSW**, has 15 years of experience working at the intersection of public health and public safety policy at local, state, and federal levels. At the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, Brett leads state-level efforts on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to ensure high-quality, integrated services for persons mental health or substance use needs. Recently, Brett worked at The Pew Charitable Trusts where he provided strategic guidance on Pew's work on medications for opioid use disorder (OUD), suicide prevention, and correctional healthcare. In doing this work, he provided policy recommendations to governors and legislative leaders as well as advocated at the federal level for policy changes on topics such as provider workforce (including peer services), healthcare financing, and population health. An alumnus of The University of Michigan, Brett earned a graduate degree in Social Work with a focus on child welfare policy, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

**Charity Boyette, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Tractus Strategic Partners, LLC, has more than two and a half decades of experience in managing teams and programs, with a particular focus in team leadership, engagement, and development. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Management at Virginia Tech. From 2009-2018, she was a tenured Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State who served overseas tours in Nigeria, Poland, and Belgium, as well as assignments in Washington, DC, including two years on Secretary of State Kerry's travel team. Prior to her federal service, Charity worked in leadership development, operations, and finance in the U.S. defense industry. She holds a Ph.D. with a focus on public-sector workforce engagement and development from the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech. She earned her MBA, with a focus in strategic development, from the Mason School of Business at the College of William & Mary and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Averett University in Virginia.

**Donna Cantrell, M.Ed.**, Brain Injury Services Unit, VA Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, received her Master's Degree in Adult Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has over 30 years of experience working in continuing medical education and public service settings, including at Virginia Commonwealth University's Office of Continuing Medical Education and HIV/AIDS Center. Since 2014, she has served as Virginia's federal TBI Grant project manager for the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). In addition to managing Virginia's TBI Grant activities, Donna also staffs the Virginia Brain Injury Council and works closely with DARS' statewide network of brain injury services providers. Donna was initially drawn to DARS' federal TBI Grant opportunity because she has lived with the experience of a severe TBI (MVA, September 1994) and compensates daily for lasting challenges. She is grateful to have the privilege of working in a field that is meaningful to her on a personal as well as a professional level.

**Kimberly Carlson, Ph.D.**, has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, board development, strategic planning, and project management. She co-founded and now serves as CEO of Tractus Strategic Partners, helping managers develop their Management Tradecraft™. At Virginia Tech, she is the Director of Volunteer Advisory Board Strategy in the Advancement Division, acting as an internal consultant to enhance strategic alignment and collaboration of leadership volunteers. She also continues to collaborate with the Management Department in the Pamplin College of Business as an Associate Professor of Practice, serving on Ph.D. committees, contributing to research, and teaching as needed. Kimberly earned a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a minor in Sociology from Virginia Tech, an M.S.W. in Clinical Social Work with a certificate in Arts and Community Practice from Florida State University, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration/Public Affairs from Virginia Tech, specializing in nonprofit management and organizational leaders.

**Senator R. Creigh Deeds** represents the 11th Senate District, which includes the counties of Albemarle, Nelson, Amherst, part of Louisa and the city of Charlottesville. He is the Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee and Chairs the Behavioral Health Commission and the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee. Sen. Deeds also serves on the Courts of Justice, Finance and Appropriations, Privileges and Elections, and Rules Committees. He was appointed this year to serve on the Special Subcommittee on Federal Impacts to Resources and the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Consolidation and Scheduling of General Elections. He is a lawyer in private practice.

**Samantha Crockett, M.S.**, is the Senior Director of Wellness and Community Engagement at Mount Rogers Community Services, bringing 16 years of experience in behavioral health. She holds a master's degree from Radford University and is recognized for her expertise in community development, strategic planning, and program innovation. Samantha has presented at national behavioral health conferences and serves on multiple leadership boards. She co-developed the Are You Okay? mental health outreach program, fostering connection and support for individuals in transition or isolation. Additionally, she is a certified 5 Bridges Wellness Coach and a facilitator of multiple evidence-based programs. Samantha is dedicated to promoting wellness, resilience, and protective factors across diverse communities.

**Jonah C. Cunningham** currently serves as President and CEO of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD). In this role he proactively advocates for national policies that recognize and support the critical role counties play in caring for people affected by mental illness, addiction, and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining NACBHDD, Jonah worked at Trust for America's Health, a public health think tank, where he focused extensively on ways to reduce mortality from substance misuse and suicide. Additionally, he worked as a congressional staffer for several years in the office of Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano (CA) where he helped to reestablish the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and created a Suicide Prevention Task Force within the Caucus. Jonah C. Cunningham has received numerous awards and recognition for his commitment to the field of behavioral health and those served by the nation's behavioral health system. Jonah has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Utah and a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University. He enjoys learning how to cook and is a black belt in Jiu-Jitsu.

**Lori Gates-Addison, MSW, LCSW**, Director of Child & Family Services and Prevention at Cumberland Mountain Community Services holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a Certified Prevention Specialist. She currently serves as the Director of Child & Family Services and Prevention at Cumberland Mountain Community Services. With 39 years of experience in the behavioral health field, Lori has achieved significant outcomes in both prevention and intervention. She is the co-creator of the Are You Okay? program and a trained facilitator of numerous evidence-based initiatives. Lori's extensive clinical background, particularly in rural Appalachian communities, underscores her commitment to fostering resilience, reducing risk factors, and promoting well-being across diverse populations.

**Lisa Jobe-Shields, Ph.D.** is the Behavioral Health Division Director for Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). The Division of Behavioral Health oversees the programmatic aspects of behavioral health services in Virginia Medicaid, including substance use and mental health services. Prior to coming to DMAS, she served as Assistant Commissioner for Community Behavioral Health at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Lisa adheres to the scientist-practitioner model and is a licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The University of Memphis, followed by a clinical internship and a two-year NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Medical University of South Carolina, National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center with a focus on implementation of evidence-based practices to treat traumatic stress across the lifespan. Prior to joining state government, she worked as an academic. She is passionate about the coordination of child and adult behavioral health and social services to help vulnerable families thrive and learning about how complex systems can be designed, managed, and improved to achieve the outcomes that matter most to communities, families, and individuals. Outside of work, Lisa stays busy raising three sons (ages 13, 10, and 6), spending time outdoors, and reading.

**Jonathan M. Joseph** is a partner at Christian & Barton, L.L.P. in Richmond, Virginia where he leads the health care industry practice group. He focuses his practice on health care contracts; managed care; telemedicine; health care transactions; HIPAA compliance; and artificial intelligence in health care. For many years he has advised multiple CSBs across Virginia on legal issues impacting their operations. Jon is an active member of the Virginia Bar Association's Health Law Section Council, having previously served as its chair, and he currently coordinates the Section's CLE and pro bono initiative for legal services to Virginia's free clinics. He is a former adjunct professor of health law for the Master of Health Administration program at Virginia Commonwealth University. An established author, Jon recently assisted on a 50-state survey of data confidentiality and breach notification laws for the American Health Law Association where he also serves as a neutral for the AHLA Dispute Resolution Service. He holds degrees from Boston University School of Law and Middlebury College.

**Amy F.S. Loving** has a passion for supporting others to achieve their goals and a long history in human services. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of William and Mary. In March of 2025, she joined the VA Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) in the Division for Community Living as the Director of Brain Injury Services. In this role, she provides oversight of the state-funded brain injury provider network, the VA Brain Injury Council, the VA Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative, and the Virginia Statewide Trauma Registry. She also provides programmatic management of Federal TBI Grant activities, identifies gaps in service needs for those with brain injury and provides collaboration and education to community support partners. Amy has nearly 20 years of professional experience working with individuals with disabilities, including brain injury, and she has worked with several private providers in the Richmond Area. Amy spent 13 years at Chesterfield Mental Health Support Services providing Case Management to intellectual and developmental disabilities, and she is certified as a Crisis Intervention Team trainer in Virginia. When she is not on the advocacy field, you might find her on a soccer field or tennis court cheering on her two sons.

**Erica Mann, MSW, LCSW**, completed her undergraduate at the College of William and Mary and completed her Master's in Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University. Erica has been employed with UMFS since 2003 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has a passion for building positive team cultures, implementing best practice ideas, and keeping families thriving in the community. She has held a number of leadership positions at UMFS and is currently the Director of Learning and Special Projects, overseeing all aspects of training and development for the agency. She is a certified practitioner in Collaborative Problem Solving through Think:Kids at Mass General Hospital. Erica lives in the Richmond area with her family and is a proud twin mom.

**Nina Marino, MSW, LCSW**, is the Vice President of Program Innovation & External Affairs at United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). She comes to UMFS with extensive experience in mental health and child welfare, specializing in state-level program implementation and public policy administration. As Director of the Office of Child and Family Services at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, she led initiatives such as expanding school-based mental health through public-private partnerships, strengthening the mobile crisis workforce, advancing adolescent substance use treatment and recovery, expanding youth-focused evidence-based practices, and building the Virginia Mental Health Access Program. Nina also served as a national consultant with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Child Welfare Strategy Group, improving permanency outcomes for older youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice systems and supporting trauma-informed, skill-building curricula for foster and adoptive parents. In addition, she has served in various non-profit leadership roles creating trauma-informed case management programming, supervising statewide teams in treatment foster care, clinical work and adoption-competent mental health services as well as creating and developing new programs. Nina started her career as a therapist, providing trauma-focused services to children and adolescents in a community mental health center. Nina received her Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed clinical social worker.

**Tony McDowell** has served as the executive director of the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) since it began operations in 2022. During that time he and his small team have assisted the OAA Board in awarding more than \$110 million to cities, counties, and state agencies. He previously served as Deputy County Manager for Public Safety in Henrico County from 2018-2022, where he helped develop the county's comprehensive strategy to prevent, treat, and support recovery from substance use disorders. He began his career with Henrico as a firefighter/paramedic in 1997 and rose through the ranks to Fire Chief in 2012. Mr. McDowell earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Virginia Tech (1991) and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas (1995).

**Tom Milam, MD, MDiv**, is the Chief Medical Officer at Iris Telehealth and President of Iris Medical Group. A practicing psychiatrist for more than 25 years, he has dedicated much of his career to advancing telepsychiatry and expanding access to mental health care. Dr. Milam earned his B.A. summa cum laude in Anthropology from West Virginia University, his Master of Divinity from Yale University, and his M.D. from the University of Virginia, before completing his psychiatry residency at both Duke University and the University of Virginia. He currently serves as an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute. Widely respected for his expertise at the intersection of psychiatry and digital health, Dr. Milam is a frequent speaker and author on topics that shape the future of behavioral health care.

**Heather Norton, MSW**, is the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. She has been with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services since 2014; first as the Director of Community Supports and Services and then as the Assistant Commissioner of Developmental Services. Heather has been working in the field for over 30 years. Heather started her career in Pennsylvania working for a variety of providers delivering both developmental and behavioral health services. She relocated to Virginia in 2004 working

for DBHDS and then Chesterfield County Community Service Board prior to returning to the Department in 2014. Heather is a transformative leader focused on system change and evolution.

**Delegate Sam Rasoul** has served Virginians since 2014, representing his hometown Roanoke, where he lives with his wife and three children. He currently Chairs the House Education Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Public Safety Committees. Sam has a background in healthcare administration, nonprofit management, and finance. During his time in the General Assembly, Sam has prioritized improving public education, protecting our environment, and increasing access to mental health resources. As the only Democrat in the western half of Virginia serving in the General Assembly, Sam works frequently across the aisle to bring positive, bipartisan, change to Southwest Virginia. As a father of three children, Sam will continue to work for a future brighter for the next generation.

**Laura Reed, LCSW**, is the Behavioral Health Senior Program Advisor in the Behavioral Health Division at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. Laura's role within the Department is to lead the implementation of the Right Help, Right Now. Medicaid Behavioral Health Redesign project and oversee all Mental Health policy development. Laura has more than 20 years' experience in child and family clinical social work practice and program management. Prior to joining the Department of Medical Assistance Services, she held a number of positions as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), including leadership positions at the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Virginia Treatment Center for Children, and Family Preservation Services, Inc. Laura holds a Bachelors of Sociology (BA) from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has held her Virginia LCSW license since 2008.

**Cheryl J. Roberts** is the Director of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), which serves 1.9 million of Virginia's citizens with a \$24 billion annual budget. She leads and supports the Department's Executive Leadership Team, DMAS staff, coverage, programs, contracts, operations, and finance in their mission to provide health care coverage and high-quality health care. She has extensive experience in population health, managed care delivery systems and operations. Previously, she was the Deputy for Programs and Operations at DMAS, as well as health plan executives in both the Medicaid and commercial sectors. Cheryl is a graduate of the City College of New York and Rutgers University School of Law. She serves as the President-Elect for the National Association of Medicaid Directors. She is also on the executive committee for the National Association of State Health Policy.

**Nelson Smith** was appointed by Governor Glenn Youngkin in 2022 to be the commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), a state agency that operates 12 state hospitals and facilities with over 6,000 employees and oversees a \$2.5 billion system that annually serves 217,000 Virginians and families struggling with behavioral health disorders and developmental disabilities. Nelson is a seasoned healthcare leader whose commitment to team building and employee empowerment has helped him achieve significant progress in delivering critical services to the citizens of Virginia. With his extensive background as CEO of several hospitals, he successfully implemented initiatives to improve access, quality, and efficiency in both inpatient and outpatient settings. He continues to prioritize the most vulnerable and overlooked populations in society, ensuring they receive the highest quality of care. With a strong foundation in faith, family, and love of country, Nelson remains dedicated to improving the lives of those he serves. Before joining the private sector, Nelson served in the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group, where he was recognized with numerous awards for his exceptional leadership and bravery. He received the Purple Heart, four Bronze Star Medals, including one with the "V" device for Valor, and the Green Beret. After retiring from the military, he pursued an MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and transitioned to a career in behavioral healthcare administration.

**The Honorable Janet Vestal Kelly** has a distinguished career in the public and private sectors, specializing in convening leaders to solve complex problems. Her leadership in the Health and Human Resources Secretariat focuses on ensuring every Virginian can live out their true purpose and potential. As Governor Youngkin's Senior Advisor for Children and Families, she led the Safe and Sound Task Force significantly reducing the number of displaced children in foster care and the Prompt Placement Task Force which increased access to state psychiatric hospitals. She was also a leading force behind the recently-signed kinship care legislation, the First Lady's *It Only Takes One* fentanyl awareness initiative, and the Governor's transformational behavioral health plan, *Right Help, Right Now*. Secretary Kelly serves as Co-Chair of the *Reclaiming Childhood Task Force*, created by Governor Youngkin via Executive Order 43, which empowers parents to improve youth mental health by promoting responsible screen use. From 2010-2014, Secretary Kelly served as Secretary of the Commonwealth in the McDonnell Administration. Because of her family's personal adoption journey, the Kellys remain staunch advocates for children, families, and workers in the child welfare system.

**Heather Zelle, J.D., Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor of Research with the Uva Department of Public Health Sciences and the Associate Director of Mental Health Policy Research at the Uva Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy. She holds a juris doctorate from Villanova University School of Law, and a doctorate in clinical psychology with a forensic concentration from Drexel University. She is licensed as an attorney in Pennsylvania (voluntary inactive status) and as a clinical psychologist in Virginia. Dr. Zelle's current policy and research work focus on the public mental health system and mental health policy in Virginia. She serves on state work groups studying topics such as involuntary civil commitment procedures and behavioral health dockets in Virginia courts. Most recently, Dr. Zelle has collaborated with state legislators in drafting bills to amend existing and create new state outpatient commitment statutes. Dr. Zelle led the Virginia Advance Directive with Instructions for Mental Health Care implementation project from September 2012 to June 2020 and is the primary author of its Virginia Department of Health-approved facilitator certification training program. She continues to work on Advance Directive implementation in collaboration with Honoring Choices Virginia. She has co-authored several publications, including chapters in *University and Public Behavioral Health Organization Collaboration in Justice Contexts*; *Routledge Encyclopedia of Psychology in the Real World: Psychology and Law*; *Forensic Assessment in Criminal and Civil Law: A Handbook for Lawyers*; *Advances in Psychology and Law*; and *Oxford Handbook of Public Health Ethics*.

## **AGENDA**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Partner Updates and Related Council Q&A/Discussion**

- DBHDS – Office of Child & Family Services
- OCS – Scott Reiner
- CCCA – Veronica Yockey

### **Open Council Dialogue**

- Behavioral Health Redesign updates
- Other agenda items from the floor

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

- Regional Program Information Sharing

### **VACSB Committee Updates**

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

### **Next Meeting Date and Time:**

### **Adjournment**



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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Developmental Services Council  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Crystal A/B/C**

**AGENDA**

- Opening & Introductions *Shannon Clark, Chair*
- DS Directory Updates *Natacha Dolson, Secretary*
- Announcements/Reminders *Shannon Clark, Chair*
- Partner Updates
  - Early Intervention/Part C *Kyla Patterson*
  - DBHDS- Waiver *Nicole DeStefano*
  - DBHDS Updates *Eric Williams*
  - DMAS Updates *Ann Bevan or Jason Perkins*
  - DBHDS- MART/QSR/ECTA *Jamie Roupe*

*Christie Lambert*
- Closed Session: DD Council-Only Discussion
  - Regional Updates
    - Region I *Tina Martina*
    - Region II *Chontelai Patterson-Mendie*
    - Region III *Wendy Gullion*
    - Region IV *Johnnie Cunningham*
    - Region V *Jaylene Trueblood*
    - CoCoA *Alison Standing*
- VACSB Committee Reports
  - Public Policy
  - Regulatory
  - Development & Training
  - Administrative Policy
  - Data Management
  - Quality Leadership
  - Quality & Outcomes
- Next meeting: December 15, 2025 virtual (Pending)  
January 21, 2025- VACSB Conference- In Person

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Emergency Services Council  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Monroe**

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome / Roll Call / Announcements
  - a. DBHDS Updates
    - i. Bill Howard
    - ii. Lars Messerschmidt
    - iii. Shannon Richardson
    - iv. Gail Paysour & Dustin Wilcox
- II. General Topics/Updates:
  - a. CRC/CSU
  - b. Committee Updates
    - i. Training Committee – Natasha Randall
    - ii. Public Policy – TBD
    - iii. PRMC Committee – Heather Baxter
    - iv. Bed Registry Advisory Council – Heather Baxter
- III. Regional updates:
  - a. Region 1: Chris Barnes
  - b. Region 2: Heather Baxter
  - c. Region 3: Ashley Spanfelner
  - d. Region 4: TBD
  - e. Region 5: Shannon Hodges/Shameka Brown
- IV. Open Floor:
  - a. Questions

Next Meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025



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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders Services Council  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Crystal D/E**

**AGENDA**

**I. MH/SUD Chairs and Co-Chairs Introduction, Welcome, & Roll Call**

- LeNelle Mozell, SUD Council Chair, [lmozell@pwcgov.org](mailto:lmozell@pwcgov.org)
- Vacant, SUD Council Co-Chair
- Michele Ebright, MH Council Chair & Council Secretary, [mebright@crossroadscsb.org](mailto:mebright@crossroadscsb.org)
- Vacant, MH Council Co-Chair

**II. Update on merging the Councils/Table finding co-chairs? – LeNelle & Michele**

**III. MH/SUD Council Representatives acknowledgments and updates (if any)**

- **Public Policy** – 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
- **Regulatory Committee** – Michelle Ebright, Crossroads
- **Finance Committee** – KJ Holbrook, Mount Rogers
- **Quality and Outcomes Committee** – Jodie E. Burton, Danville-Pittsylvania

**IV. Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports (DBHDS) Updates – Dr. Candace Roney, Patty Brown, Meredith Nusbaum, Kim Boyd (MH Recovery Supports)**

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

**VI. Medicaid Redesign – Discussion**

**VII. Report out from the VACSB Leadership Call 9-5-2025 –**

- **VACSB** is actively working with DBHDS re: costs of services information CSBs sent in
- **QMPH (Chaquitta Scott-Tillerson)** – some folks have successfully been able to register, VACSB is identifying which federally-required trainings might match to the 40 hours required for the certification, also learned that sociology is no longer allowed as an approved degree -
- **CCBHC Update** – DMAS supports moving to CCBHC, VA would apply with DBHDS being the lead; BH Redesign and CCBHC requirements don’t match in regard to “grants to localities” – state interprets any grants we have to localities as not supported, and SAMHSA’s definition of grants refers to those that an entity would apply for, and we don’t typically apply for these.

**VIII. Council Members’ Questions/Comments**

**IX. CSB Announcements/Kudos**

**X. Next Meeting Dates**

December 5, 2025- Virtual (**Do we prefer a.m. or p.m.?**)

**XI. Adjournment**

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

**2:00 – 5:00pm**

**Room: Harrison-Tyler**

## AGENDA

Meeting Facilitated by:

Kelly Bulin, Eastern Shore CSB, Co-Chair

Michelle Wagaman, Rappahannock Area CSB, Co-Chair

Timekeeping and Minutes by:

Charmin Horton, Eastern Shore CSB, Secretary

**AGENDA:**

**TIME:**

**Welcome and Rollcall(Kelly and Charmin)**

**2:00-2:05pm**

## DBHDS Updates – (Colleen Hughes)

**2:05-2:45pm**

## Fall Prevention Summit – Recap

**BREAK**

**2:45-3:15pm**

### Group Discussion (Kelly and Michelle)

**3:15-4:00pm**

**(Comments should be brief 3 mins to allow time for and space for all to contribute)**

### Prevention Initiatives for 2025-2026 Funding Cycles

- a. Suicide Prevention Trainings (MHFA, ASIST, safeTalk, QPR)
- b. Lock and Talk
- c. Counter Tools (tobacco and vaping)
- d. ACE Interface
- e. Gaming and Gambling
- f. Cannabis
- g. Opioid Response (REVIVE, Harm Reduction)
- h. Other Curriculum/Initiatives Implemented

### Regional Updates:

**RSPI Report Dates:**

October 17 – July-Sept

January 16- October-Dec

April 17 – January-March

July 17 – March-June

## VACSB Committee Reports: Updates (Michelle)

**4:00-4:10pm**

**Please let us know if you have an update from your committee that has not been previously submitted.**

**Current Committee Representatives:**

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Administrative Policy Committee   | (Amanda Oakes and Kelly Bulin)      |
| b. Data Management Committee         | (Hannah Bershing)                   |
| c. Governor's Addiction and Recovery | (Tim Griffin and April Miller)      |
| d. Leadership Committee              | (Kelly Bulin and Michelle Wagaman)  |
| e. Prevention Council Co-Chairs      | ( Kelly Bulin and Michelle Wagaman) |
| f. Public Policy Committee           | (Heather Martinsen)                 |
| g. Q&O Committee                     | (Kelly Bulin and Emily Mullins)     |
| h. Quality Leadership Subcommittee   | (Samantha Crockett)                 |

i. Training and Development

(Tamnequa McIntyre and

TeVondra Gayden)

j. VACSB Finance Committee

(Andrea Randle and Emily Mullins)

**VACSB (Ad Hoc Committees)**

Bylaws Committee

(Kelly Bulin)

School MHFA Committee

(Kelly Bulin and Michelle Wagaman)

**NETWORKING**

**4:10-4:50pm**

**Next Meeting & Adjournment (Kelly)**

**4:50-5:00pm**

November 21, 2025 @11:00am VIA ZOOM

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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Human Resources Council  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Tinker**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome/Introductions/Agenda (Crystal Homer, Chair)
  - Approval of Minutes of May meeting
  - DBHDS Updates/ Workforce Reporting/Peer reporting
  - Legal Updates with Woods Rogers
  - Next Meeting Date/Agenda (Cindy Lewis, Vice-Chair)
  - Adjournment
- 

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Quality Leadership Council  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Mill**

**AGENDA**

1. VACSB Committee/Council Reports
    - a. Cardinal/CCC Plus/Medallion 4.0—Beth Ludeman Hopkins, VACSB
    - b. Regulatory Committee
    - c. Others?
  2. DBHDS Updates
    - a. Office of Quality Management
    - b. Office of Licensing
    - c. Office of Human Rights
  3. DMAS Updates
    - a. BH Redesign
  4. Regional Meeting Updates
  5. Licensing Regulation Overhaul
  6. Recent Audits/Outcomes/Trends
  7. Additional Items from the Council At Large—
- VACSB Quality Leadership Council Schedule for 2025**
- October VACSB meeting, 10/2/25, 2pm, NO Hybrid option
  - December 12<sup>th</sup>—via Teams link

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Finance Directors Council  
October 2, 2025 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Jefferson**

**AGENDA**

**2:00-2:20: Welcome, Introductions, Status of Council Update** – Danielle Sayre (Chesterfield CSB)

**2:20-3:15: Current Issues:**

- Web Grants
  - Additional funding streams moving to reimbursement
  - Grant applications
- Reporting
  - AR Reporting to DBHDS
  - EDW
- Initiatives
  - Behavioral Health Redesign
  - CCBHC Workgroup
- Federal Reimbursement Reviews by DBHDS
- FY27 Performance Contract
  - VACSB Admin Policy Committee proposal
- FY27 Budget Assumptions
  - Medicaid reductions
  - Funding reductions
- Other Issues

**3:15-3:45: Break**

**3:45-4:15: Subcommittee Report Outs**

- Regional Reports
  - i. Region 1 –
  - ii. Region 2 –
  - iii. Region 3 –
  - iv. Region 4 - Marty Shepherd (Henrico CSB)
  - v. Region 5 – Andrew Jurewicz (Western Tidewater)
- b. CFO orientation subcommittee – need volunteer

**4:15-5:00: Wrap up and Next Meeting Planning**

**Next Meeting: Annual Finance Directors' Retreat– January 2026**

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
Executive Directors Forum  
October 2, 2025      2:00 – 5:00pm      Room: Wilson**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – *Ellen Harrison*
  - II. Additions to the Agenda
  - III. DBHDS Updates – *DBHDS Staff*
  - IV. VACSB Reports and New Business
    - A. VACSB CCBHC Project Updates – *CCBHC Steering Committee Members*
    - B. Environment at the Federal Level – *Group Discussion*
    - C. QMHP Regulatory Changes – *Jennifer Faison*
    - D. STAC 2.0 – *Ellen Harrison*
    - E. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert – *Group Discussion*
  - V. DMAS Updates – *Group Discussion*
    - A. Medicaid Redesign
    - B. DD Waiver Rate Study
  - VI. Committee Updates
    - A. Administrative Policy – *Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison*
    - B. Public Policy – *Greg Preston/Mary Cole*
    - C. Regulatory – *Ivy Sager/Melba Moore*
    - D. Service Development – *MiMi Sedjat/Margaret Graham*
    - E. Quality & Outcomes – *Melissa Lucy/Brandon Rogers*
    - F. Training & Development – *Lisa Beitz/Melissa Lucy*
  - VII. Adjourn
- 

**Behavioral Health Partnership of Virginia  
Immediately Upon Adjournment of the VACSB Executive Directors Forum**

- I. Call to Order
- II. New Business
- III. Election of Treasurer
- IV. Adjourn

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards  
VACSB Board of Directors  
VACSB Membership Business Meeting  
October 3, 2025 Room: Crystal**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to order/Welcome – Gib Sloan
  - A. Membership Roll Call – Stephanie Clark
  - B. VACSB Board Members Roll Call – Stephanie Clark
- II. Approval of Outcomes – Gib Sloan
  - A. Board of Directors: 23 JUL 2025, previously distributed
  - B. Membership Business Meeting: 09 MAY 2025, previously distributed
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. Chair – Gib Sloan
  - B. Past Chair – Patrick Sowers
  - C. 1st Vice Chair – Angelo Wider
  - D. 2nd Vice Chair – Ellen Harrison
  - E. Secretary – Stephanie Clark
  - F. Treasurer – Bernetta Watkins
- V. Action Items
  - A. Board of Directors- VACSB FY25 Financial Audit & Form 990
  - B. Board of Directors- VACSB 2026-2027 Draft Budget Priorities
  - C. VACSB Membership- VACSB 2026-2027 Draft Budget Priorities
  - D. VACSB Membership Clearinghouse Committee authorization for 2026 General Assembly
  - E. VACSB Membership: Board Recommended Proposed VACSB FY27 Budget
- VI. Council Reports
  - A. Children & Family Services – Cathy Brown/Paulette Skapars
  - B. Developmental Services Council – Shannon Clark/LaVoyce Reid
  - C. Emergency Services Council – Cheryl St. John/Andrea Hess
  - D. Mental Health Services Council – Michele Ebrigth/VACANT
  - E. Prevention Services Council – Kelly Bulin/Michelle Wagaman
  - F. Substance Use Disorder Services Council – LeNelle Mozell/VACANT
  - G. Regional Programs and Services Council – Lisa Beitz
  - H. Finance Directors Council – Danielle Sayre/VACANT
  - I. Human Resources Directors Council – Crystal Homer/Cindy Lewis
  - J. Quality Leadership Council – Melissa Constantine/Laura Davis
- VII. Committee Reports
  - G. Administrative Policy – Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison
  - H. Public Policy – Greg Preston/Mary Cole
  - I. Regulatory – Ivy Sager/Melba Moore
  - J. Service Development – MiMi Sedjat/Margaret Graham
  - K. Quality & Outcomes –Melissa Lucy/Brandon Rodgers
  - L. Training & Development – Lisa Beitz/Melissa Lucy
- VIII. Regional Reports
  - A. Region 1 – Melissa Lucy/James Sikkema/Barbara Barrett
  - B. Region 2 – Margaret Graham/Evan Jones/Voneka Bennett
  - C. Region 3 – Marck Chadwick/Brenda Ephriam/Jane Carlson
  - D. Region 4 – Christi Zedd/Helen Leonard/Bernetta Watkins
  - E. Region 5 – Nathan Woodard/Darryl Pirok/VACANT
- IX. VACSB Reports and New Business
  - A. VACSB CCBHC Project Updates – CCBHC Steering Committee Members

- B. Environment at the Federal Level – Jennifer Faison
- C. QMHP Regulatory Changes – Jennifer Faison
- D. STAC 2.0- Ellen Harrison
- E. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert – Jennifer Faison
- X. DMAS Updates – Jennifer Faison
  - A. Medicaid Redesign
  - B. DD Waiver Rate Study
- XI. Executive Director’s Report – Jennifer Faison
- XII. Other Items/Announcements
- XIII. Future Meetings
  - A. 10 DEC 2025 VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
  - B. 21 JAN 2026 Richmond Marriott Downtown
- XIV. Adjourn

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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards**

**Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting**

**May 9, 2025, 9:00 AM**

**Board of Directors Members in Attendance:** Patrick Sowers, Ingrid Barber, Angelo Wider, Stephanie Clark, Laura Totty, Phil Caldwell, Greg Preston, Margaret Graham, Mark Chadwick, Ellen Harrison, Melissa Lucy, Brandon Rodgers, Rebekah Brubaker, James Sikkema, Barbabra Barrett, Evan Jones, Rebecca Holmes, Jane Carlson, Cathy Brown, Shannon Clark, LaVoyce Reid, Danielle Sayre, Cindy Lewis, Kelly Bulin, Laura Davis, LeNelle Mozell, Tim May

**Board of Directors Members Not in Attendance:** Gib Sloan, MiMi Sedjat, Voneka Bennett, Debbie Knox, Charnessa Pleasant, Darryl Pirok, Paulette Skapars, Ashton Morse, Bill Fellows, Crystal Homer, Alisha Wright, Melissa Ackley, Melissa Constantine, Bernetta Watkins, Kim Woodlee, Bea Dahlen, Lisa Beitz

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

**CSB Membership Not in Attendance:** Cumberland Mountain, Dickenson, Hampton-Newport News, Hanover, Portsmouth

- I. Call to Order/Welcome – Patrick Sowers called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
  - A. Board of Directors Roll Call- Stephanie Clark called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
  - B. Membership Roll Call- Stephanie Clark called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
- II. Approval of Outcomes- Patrick Sowers
  - A. Board of Directors Meeting: March 12, 2025
    - **OUTCOME:** Upon motion and second the outcomes were approved unanimously as previously distributed.
  - B. Membership Business Meeting: January 22, 2025
    - **OUTCOME:** Upon Motion and second the outcomes were unanimously approved as previously distributed.
- III. Additions to the Agenda: There were none.
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. Chair- Patrick Sowers reported the following:
    - Patrick expressed his deep gratitude and honor for having chaired the VACSB Board of Directors over the past three years, as he now passes the torch to the incoming chair. He also extended his sincere appreciation to the CSBs, recognizing their dedication and the meaningful impact of their work in providing valuable services that benefit both the community and the broader CSB system.
  - B. Past Chair- Angelo Wider reported the following:
    - Angelo thanked everyone for their support over the years and is looking forward to having the opportunity to serve on the board again in a new role as the incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.

C. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair- Gib Sloan was not in attendance to report.

D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair- Ingrid Barber reported the following from the previous day's Executive Directors Forum:

- Commissioner Nelson Smith provided DBHDS updates, requesting support and trust from the CSBs on competing priorities that will be coming up. In particular, he asked that executive directors work with DBHDS to define outcomes which will help provide better funding. Additionally, DBHDS is requesting more details on the accounts receivables. It was also stated that real time information is needed in preparation for looking towards the future.
- Nathan Miles reported that the federal Medicaid side is being watched for any changes and updates. A request was made for CFOs to complete an AR reporting, there will be a FY26 template to complete via spreadsheet.
- Heather Norton discussed and explained the STEP-VA funding formula and the factors considered in reallocating the funding to the CSBs. All CSBs will be contacted to have discussions regarding their balances as well as their reserves. It was also questioned whether there were any prevention needs for those CSBs who had been impacted by the federal return of the Opera funding.
- Craig Camidge provided an update on the data modernization project and Heather Norton reported that a new link will be coming out for review to look at EBL hospital information, ECOs and TDOs. This information will be added to the dashboard and is planned to go live in the system, feedback is requested.

E. Secretary- Stephanie Clark reported the following:

- A reminder was given that nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 Gartlan Award until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Nomination information for this prestigious award was sent to membership on the previous month. Camryn Miller at the VACSB can be contacted for any questions or information.

F. Treasurer- Jennifer Faison reported the following on behalf of Bernetta Watkins absence:

- The monthly review of the association's finances shows the association is financially sound and on track for this month's budget.

V. Action Items-Patrick Sowers

A. Membership: Endorsement of FY26 Slate of Officers

B. Membership: Endorsement of FY26 CSB Board Member Regional Representatives

- Patrick Sowers presented the nominations for FY26. Ivy Segar led the nominating committee for slate of officers and regional representatives. Both were submitted to the VACSB Board of Directors during the March 12th meeting.
- Patrick Sowers moved that the 2026 slate of officers previously endorsed by the board of directors, be endorsed by the membership. That motion needs to be seconded. That motion was seconded.

**OUTCOME: Endorsement of the FY26 slate of officers was approved.**

- Patrick Sowers moved that the CSB board member regional representatives to serve on the VACSB Board for FY26, previously endorsed by the board of directors, by endorsement by the membership, be approved. This motion does not need to be seconded. Patrick motioned for approval.

**OUTCOME: Endorsement of the FY26 CSB Board Member Regional Representatives was approved.**

VI. Council Reports

- A. Children & Family Services Council – Cathy Brown reported the following from the previous day’s council meeting:
- Discussion was given to the new QMHP regulations that went into effect this week. A webinar will take place on the following week that should provide more clarification surrounding this matter. In particular, clarification is needed on what the supervision requirements are, in terms of licensed individuals and supervisees still being required to have additional training.
  - Upcoming opportunities for public comment regarding Behavioral Health Redesign were discussed, this information can be found on the DMAS website.
  - An update from the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents was provided. Veronica Yockey is now the acting social work director, in place of John Hamrick. There are currently 24 beds online and they continue to have a waitlist, often resulting in children having to spend days in the ER while waiting for beds to free up.
  - Statewide OCS issues were discussed, referencing that throughout the state there is an increase in residential placements by parents, resulting in children being removed from the community.
  - The council also reported that they will be continuing with the same chair and co-chair this year.
- B. Developmental Services Council- Shannon Clark and LaVoyce Reid reported the following for the council:
- A reminder was given for the DMAS rate survey that is due on Monday 5/12/25, consisting of the seven waiver services that are being reviewed to assess an increase for rates.
  - HSAG Round 7 was discussed regarding audits coming forward as well as the waitlist audits.
  - Partner updates from Kyla Patterson were provided on Part C. Concerns arose surrounding Part C and the Department of Education regarding the release of the skinny budget, which has a 15.3% reduction overall recommended for special education funding programming. Consideration is also being given to consolidate seven of the eight funds to one block grant, although which seven were not identified. Medicaid changes surrounding Part C and what they will potentially look like were also mentioned. On a state level, there has been no allocation regarding system levels and what the renewal will consist of. Changes in the contract are anticipated. The monitoring team are continuing to do their monthly review processes.
  - Eric Williams, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Services with DBHDS, addressed some of the responses to a letter that the DS council submitted regarding trends that are being seen with CSBs and providers. There is a potential focus group to be established for CSBs and providers in terms of increasing and improving collaboration across the two. Suggested talking points for the focus group include enhancing pre-licensing requirements, strengthening training standards, improving collaboration for more effective communication, increasing the use of consent agreements, and offering refresher training courses as needed.
  - Nicole DeStefano provided an update on the waiver updates system, reminding the council that the waiver slots that are being held beyond the 150-day mark must be released to initiate and release those first half of waivers. The possibility of automatically assigning Priority One status to individuals currently classified as Priority Two, specifically those aged 22 to 27 is under review.

- The governor's budget included 10 new SA positions as well as two new RSS positions.
- The council entered to close session to discuss regional updates as well as some internal systematic aspects.
- The next council meeting will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

C. Emergency Services Council- Heather Baxter reported the following for the council:

- Updates on the chair and co-chair of the council were provided, Ashton Morse will be the new chair and Sarah Gray will be co-chair.
- Laura Reed met with the council to answer questions regarding QMHP supervision and screenings; no updates were made on this matter at the time.
- Bill Howard discussed getting more private facilities onto the platform for hospital referrals. It was reported that this has been going well and CSBs have been utilizing this often. However, there are some hospitals that are on board but have not yet been able to train all of their staff, resulting in a split with both the new and old process being used.
- An Emergency Services manager role is being created in the VCC. This generated positive feedback in terms of being able to manage some aspects independently and without them having to be sent through BHL.
- The council reported that fixes are coming about, some of which were requested, and they are all currently in the works.
- LARS provided an update on MOT, which is being reviewed to determine where this falls in reference to it falling under ES or other departments and overall, where it goes within DBHDS. Several MOT providers have been met with to ask questions and conduct research in trying to determine such.
- The AT is currently working to be up to date with the law that passed stating that family must be allowed to be a part of the assessment and unless the clinician or a doctor says otherwise the police cannot be. The AT is making sure they are up to date on this in preparation of ensuring that individuals understand this procedure.
- Trainings with the ILPPP are being scheduled. Due to the unique demands of emergency services, which operate 24/7, a single 1-day training session is not sufficient to reach most of the staff. There are some trainings that have already had to be rescheduled because of this. New River Valley's training is rescheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, emails will be coming out regarding any rescheduling needs. Multiple requests have been made to DBHDS for alternative solutions such as recorded sessions, virtual options, or multiple offerings (e.g., morning and afternoon sessions or sessions on different days) to accommodate the 24/7 workforce. While these options won't be implemented this year, DBHDS has indicated they will consider this in the future.
- Reports were provided regarding the waitlist. There are several diversions happening between the state hospitals to accommodate renovations that are happening at Southwestern.
- An update was provided on alternative transport, Steadfast will be operating with all of Region 3 by the end of July.
- The council has adjusted their meeting format to now meet virtually on a monthly basis. Due to the emergence of new and time-consuming topics such as CRCs and mobile crisis services, a decision to focus each meeting on a specific subject was made. June's meeting will cover CRCs, July will focus on mobile crisis, and August will address emergency

services. This approach ensures that each topic receives the attention and discussion it deserves.

- Regional Updates: Everyone is continuing to work on CRCs and CSUs. Additionally, there are also a lot of openings coming about. District 19 also announced that they have changed their name to Greater Reach.

D. Mental Health and SUD Services Councils- LeNelle Mozelle reported the following for the councils:

- Dr. Michele Ebright will be the new co-chair for the Mental Health Services Council, and Alisha Wright will remain chair. LeNelle Mozelle will remain chair for the SUD council and a co-chair is still being sought after.
- Updates were provided from the Public Policy committee regarding the abrupt ending to ARPA funding as well as the impact of the protentional additional cuts to Medicaid. The council was informed that Jennifer Faison is partnering with various community members to advocate with legislators to preserve Medicaid funding.
- Discussion took place on plans for the redistribution of STEP-VA funds for FY26.
- The data management committee reported that for STEP-VA and STAC 2.0, those who are receiving medical services will not need a DLA 20 to be completed.
- STAC 2.0 and STEP-VA site visits are continuing.
- The only item that still needs a definition is the first visit for the iSER measure.
- In reference to cost reporting, funding formula changes for STEP-VA are to take place in July of this year. Changes are intended to support capacity building and 20% of funding will be available for allocation. Executive directors will be forwarded additional information that should be shared with staff as it becomes available.
- Discussion was given to definitions of medication errors and how to enter medication errors into CHRIS. As CSBs have different definitions of what needs to be reported this was discussed to gain an understanding of the regulations.
- Concerns were brought up surrounding MCOs and contractors requesting large amounts of records of surveys within a small turnaround time, causing a burden to CSB staff.
- CSBs are waiting to see what changes Medicaid Redesign will bring to mental health services at the CSB level. There is a lot of concern about potential cuts to Medicaid and how this could impact the public mental health system.
- The regulatory committee reported significant proposed changes to children's residential programs aimed at reducing administrative burdens and easing staffing shortages by adjusting staffing requirements.
- Chapter 11 of the Mental Health Services Manual is currently out for public comment through May 21<sup>st</sup>, review is highly encouraged.
- Survey overload was discussed surrounding the significant number of requests for information in a short amount of time. It was also mentioned that executive directors are not always of all the surveys. Additionally, some information that is being requested should already be included in other reports.
- The finalization of the QMHP Behavioral Assistant regulations was discussed, as previously stated more clarification is needed to fully understand all aspects of these regulations.
- The Quality and Outcomes committee discussed Medication errors relating to boards reporting these differently. Additionally, MCOs requesting excessive information was also mentioned.

- The Peer Subcommittee completed two trainings this week which focused on peer work and peer supervision. The sessions included engaging activities which generated positive feedback. The subcommittee also continues to update its website every couple of weeks with new resources and information. Looking ahead, the state's annual peer conference, *We Thrive in 2025*, will take place in August. Hotel accommodations are now available.
- The office of Substance Use Services as well as SOR provided updates to the council. SOR allocations were paused on March 24<sup>th</sup> to assess for implications from cuts from the federal government. They have now reopened and are not anticipating additional cuts to funding at this time. Resources are expected to remain stable through the next fiscal year and beyond. The following quote was provided: "We are moving forward as if SOR funds are still going to be available. In terms of SOR funding at reallocation, it is the intention of the office to assist those who need more funds to further grow capacity." If there are any unspent funds that have a definite plan for use, an email has been sent out requesting a sense of what will be encumbered so that they can distribute the unencumbered funds to other CSBs that may need it.
- New staff in the office of Substance Use Services are Tahja Gay and Beth Kowalski who will be helping to address concerns.
- The office of Recovery Services is working on developing a training to educate stakeholders about recovery residences, this is expected to be available in the next few months. The training for peer support supervisors is also being revamped, which will be a shorter duration. Starting in June, monthly lunch and learns will take place, more information will be provided on this in the near future. An ethics advisory review and supports committee will be started and headed by Dr. Michael Gillette. This committee will look at real ethical dilemmas peers face and discuss solutions, they are now open for case referrals. The office is also working to better support peers who work in state facilities, who may be the only peer or only one of two. They recognize this can be a lonely position and are exploring ways to reduce the stress that they might encounter. The General Assembly has approved funding to open peer respite programs called Peer Wellness Stays. These would be unlicensed facilities that will provide additional support with the hope of reducing the need for CSU or CRC admissions and to also save law enforcement time. One has already opened in Whitfield, VA and Northern Virginia and Region five are in the process of opening facilities as well.
- STEP-VA updates: The new version of the STEP-VA manual is coming out and they are working to operationalize the definitions for upcoming changes. The WHODAS Pilot will end in June, the results will be reviewed, and participants will be met with to receive qualitative feedback. This will help to stay up to date on the next steps, but it has not been confirmed when or if the DLA-20 will go away. A committee is also being started to look at community integration practices in term of roles and responsibilities. Executive directors will be contacted for help with staff participation.
- Nathan Mitchell presented on Recovery Corps which is also affiliated with AmeriCorps and that allows CSBs or community agencies to have a peer navigator or coordinator to help develop their peer work in communities. A stipend is paid to the individual, CSBs are only responsible for providing technology and housing. The cycle for applying for peer navigators or coordinators was discussed and generated a lot of interest.
- ASAM 4<sup>th</sup> edition is out, and the state has completed all planned trainings for CSBs on the new ASAM criteria, however not all the necessary staff have been trained. The timeline for

transitioning to ASAM 4 is still unknown and Medicaid is currently working on this. While there were previous indications that DBHDS would support in-house training so agencies could train their staff, there have been no updates. This is a concern with the possible risk of needing to implement ASAM 4 without having enough trained staff.

- A question regarding how provider choice may affect CSBs if they have people who live outside the catchment area was mentioned, in terms of making sure these individuals have choice if they are too far away to receive resources and CSBs are not able to travel to them. Discussion was had regarding what the different CSBs are doing about this.
- The councils spoke with Jennifer Faison about merging the Mental Health and Substance Use Services councils, as they consistently meet together. The goal is to create a unified Behavioral Health Services Council, and this will likely be discussed further in August. Additionally, the councils are considering elevating the Peer Subcommittee to their own council, given the significant and impactful work they consistently contribute.
- A farewell and thank you was given to Tim May for his hard work and dedication as the council co-chair.
- The next meeting will be held virtually on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

E. Prevention Services Council- Kelly Bullin reported the following for the council:

- The new co-chair of the council is Michelle Wagman from Rappahannock CSB.
- The office of Behavioral Health and Wellness convened a training on Tuesday, which was a day along training for all prevention departments across the state to work on the performance-based prevention services data system. This is a mandated database that collects all the activity and service-related data for prevention services across the state. There have been some significant updates to the system and Omni will be the contractual partner to help lead this process so that the system is up and running after July 1<sup>st</sup> to collect this data.
- The council met yesterday and outlined priorities for the coming year under several categories which will be discussed during the meeting with the VACSB in the next few weeks.
- The priorities for budget and funding that the Prevention Council is seeking and working collaboratively with DBHDS on, include seeking \$8 million of state general funds to sustain expanded efforts across the state and prevention services since 2019. This was put forth originally to the Virginia legislature and made good progress, but ultimately did not make it to the goal. The office of Behavioral Health and Wellness will be presenting this as a budget item next year.
- The council is supporting the DBHDS office of Behavioral Health and Wellness in its effort to reallocate \$900,000 that is currently given to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth for media campaigning, to be brought back into the CSB prevention offices to provide direct services across the state. Support will also be provided to DBHDS to expand language in the performance contract to include other evidence-based programs in addition to Mental Health First Aid and to assist in some of the other mental health trainings and promotion efforts that the prevention offices currently have been doing for the past 11 years.
- An increase in funding for Mental Health First Aid across the state has been requested, referencing House Bill number 2637, which was passed to provide Mental Health First aid to all public-school systems across the state. Currently, there has not been an increase in funding for Mental Health First Aid in 11 years.

- In terms of legislation and policy, the council is unanimous in wanting to reclaim DEI strategies and language that support and acknowledge evidence-based practices and science-driven services, as there is concern about having to potentially neglect certain populations and reduce services in communities.
  - Clarification is being sought from the state legislature as well as DBHDS regarding regulatory barriers and concerns in reference to maintaining and monitoring oversight practices for problem gaming and gambling, retail cannabis, and tobacco retail sales.
- F. Regional Programs and Services Council:
- No report.
- G. Finance Directors Council- Danielle Sayre reported the following for the council:
- The council discussed topics ranging from: web grants application, line by line applications, reimbursement challenges to the myriad of recent reporting requirements, including the ARPA Federal Balance Report and returning monies to DBHDS. Additionally, the DMAS DD provider wage survey that is due Monday, and the STEP-VA Salvage BHC survey request due at the end of this month were also discussed.
  - Various initiatives were reported surrounding the CCBHC work group, CCS3 taxonomy sunset, Step-VA Funding Formula workgroup, and potential Medicaid redesign into FY27.
  - The FY26 budget assumption related to possible Medicaid reductions was discussed regarding what boards are doing in their assumptions and workforce bonuses and increases.
  - The council ended with discussing DBHDS's recent notification of AR collection information, which was met with concern as to their intended use of the information as well as the increased burden on the CSBs that will be required to provide information to DBHDS on their AR, balances, fluctuations, and other related aspects.
  - The council's next meeting will be held virtually in July.
- H. Human Resources Directors Council- Cindy Lewis reported the following for the council:
- Craig Camidge met with the council on the previous day and provided discussion on workforce reporting as to how this information can be viewed on the dashboard. He reported that the third quarter report was due April 30<sup>th</sup>, and the next quarterly report is due July 30<sup>th</sup>, in which will also include compensation data done once a year. The requirement of 100% compliance from all 40 CSBs was expressed.
  - Juliann Tripp provided an update on the Behavioral Health Academy, which includes 20 hours of self-directed modules focused on exploring mental health, mental illness, wellbeing, and the behavioral health careers. These hours of training are free and will be credited towards the behavioral health technician, assistant behavioral health technician, or the QMHP trainee registration.
  - Henry Huff, an attorney with Woods Rogers, joined the council to share some legal updates.
  - The QMHP regulations which took effect May 7<sup>th</sup> were discussed. There will be a webinar on this topic on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Attendance is encouraged for clarification on these changes.
  - The next council meeting will be held virtually in August.
- I. Quality Leadership Council- Laura Davis reported the following for the council:
- The council is forming a workgroup to focus on the behavioral health redesign and the current public comment periods. Region 4 is leading this effort and has already begun

meeting to review these issues; Quality Leadership will also be joining in on the initiative. The goal is to develop some talking points or questions related to the ongoing public comment period; more information will be shared soon.

- Council members expressed concern over the rising number and frequency of audits, which are beginning to strain agency operations. Several CSBs have had to request extensions on audit deadlines due to the volume of requests. There was also note of an increase in repeated and redundant documentation requests even after materials had already been submitted, resulting in an added administrative workload. Additionally, the nature of audits appears to have shifted, becoming more adversarial (e.g., TB screenings) rather than focusing on service quality or improvement. These challenges are particularly troubling given the current uncertainty around funding and the strong need for QA and compliance. CSBs are encouraged to engage with their QA or CQI teams to assess what steps are being taken to safeguard revenue and ensure protection for both the agency and individuals.
- The next council meeting will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup>, please contact the council if interested in joining.

## VII. Committee Reports

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

- While many exhibits and amendments have already been reviewed, some late entries are still coming into the performance contract and are currently under negotiation. The final version was initially expected to be ready by early May; however, this has now been delayed further. The committee is meeting over the next two Wednesdays to make a final effort toward completing the performance contract with the current target for finalization now set for the end of May.
- Special recognition was given to the committee who have been contributing to recent reports and for being actively involved in shaping the performance contract.
- The purpose of the Administrative Policy committee was emphasized in regard to negotiating with DBHDS on behalf of all the 40 CSBs best interest.
- A reminder was shared that the CSB system is no stranger to change, and while the process may feel frustrating at times, adaptability is one of the key strengths. The focus remains on doing the next best thing and continuing to ensure that our voices are heard.

### B. Public Policy Committee: Greg Preston reported the following on behalf of the committee:

- A thank you was given to the work of the committee along with Jennifer Faison, Ariel DeVoy, and Mary Cole.
- The committee last met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed ARPA funding HHS and the agency downsizing. Discussion was also given to Medicaid, developmental disability services, DOJ crisis services, and the QMHP regulatory changes.
- Special recognition was given to Ariel DeVoy and Jennifer Faison for doing a fantastic job with their role in contacting the different council representatives to set up individual meetings to get started for the year.

### C. Service Development Committee

- No report.

### D. Quality and Outcomes Committee: Brandon Rodgers reported the following on behalf of the committee:

- A number of measures proposed by DBHDS were reviewed. It was highlighted that some of the new measures that were requested do not have data elements that can be properly measured. As a result, there has been a lot of push toward national quality framework measures and avoiding Virginia specific asks to make sure to leverage what is already in the data feeds coming from EHRs to the EDW. The first ask surrounds peer services engagement, and it was noted that this will only be a partial reflection of the work of peers in CSBs being that it is only going to look at billable services and will not capture low barrier peer services where engagement and other relevant aspects are being worked on. There will also likely be some asks for new data elements for FY27, however this first year will only look at the billable 2025 services. Additionally, there are asks about increasing the benchmark for a lot of data measures by 3% until its achieved in the system. Concerns were raised about the quality of the current framework initiative, with the observation that it may be setting the system up for failure by imposing overly rigid standards. While progress can be made, many of the benchmarks such as engagement and SUD services within 90 days, retention and other similar services were not designed to be achieved at 100%. Efforts are being continued to address the rationality of this framework.
- It was noted that the measures related to discharge from state institutions fall only partially under the control of CSBs. As a result, looking at what housing resources and supports are available in communities may or may not match the needs of individuals. CSBs do not have the authority to create affordable housing, despite its critical role in positive outcomes of community reentry.
- Additionally, there are measures concerning opioid-related deaths and death rates. While CSBs are being informed of these metrics, they are not currently required to report them. However, it was highlighted that Virginia has made significant progress in reducing opioid-related deaths in recent years, reportedly leading the nation in this area.

E. Training and Development Committee- Jennifer Faison reported the following on behalf of the committee:

- The Training and Development Committee was highly engaged in preparing for this year's conference, reviewing nearly 100 workshop proposals. This process required significant time and effort from council members and executive directors to narrow down the selections, planning for this conference began as early as August. The committee expressed appreciation to all attendees for their participation over the past two and a half days. Attendees are encouraged to share what they've learned with their colleagues.
- Planning for the next conference will begin soon. The committee often carries forward strong workshop proposals that were not selected for this event to be considered for the October Public Policy conference, provided they align with the relevant topic areas.
- A final thank you was given to the committee for their hard work in helping to plan a successful conference.

## VIII. Regional Reports

A. Region 1-Rebekah Brubaker reported the following for Region 1:

- Several boards are currently in various stages of construction projects for their respective CSB catchment areas. These projects range from building crisis receiving centers to improving or expanding existing programs.
- The region continues to leverage regional office resources to train staff. As the new QMHP requirements are being reviewed, additional methods for training and supporting staff are also being explored.

B. Region 2 – Margaret Graham reported the following for Region 2:

- Region 2 crisis stabilization units have served 781 individuals through the third quarter of this fiscal year, including 221 people under temporary detention and approximately 71 receiving medically monitored withdrawal management services.
- The Adolescent and Detox Crisis contract was awarded to Acadia Healthcare. The program will provide ASAM 3.5 and 3.7 in residential crisis stabilization, serving youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who are experiencing a behavioral health substance use crisis, with others being considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Regional permanent supportive housing funding is being invested in developing affordable housing inventory to include potential projects in the city of Alexandria and Fairfax County that will serve those with SMI.
- The regional older adult facility team known as the RAFT project, who support individuals with dementia as well as their families have received 147 referrals year to date for their comprehensive services. So far in this fiscal year, 15 individuals have benefited from access to their respite program.
- Year to date, 539 staff and partners have attended the regional training provided by the Northern Virginia regional projects office training team.
- The Region 2 Training and Development conference planned for early June has received over 400 registrations from CSB staff, bringing the total FY25 to just under 1000 staff trained. This conference will offer varied topics to staff, including self-care, trauma, ethics, clinical and administrative skill development options.

C. Region 3: Rebecca Holmes reported the following for Region 3:

- Region 3 has hosted multiple successful conferences in the last couple of months providing important information and resources. The West Prevention council has held its second annual Problem Gambling Prevention conference and the second annual Peer conference was held in early April.
- Regarding ongoing challenges, the region is still working to more effectively staff the regional mobile crisis teams across all 10 CSBs.
- The region has a separate call center than the one that serves the other 4 regions and has received positive feedback. However, the call center continues to handle a large volume of calls and is continuing to struggle covering the increases in the rollover calls from the other regions.
- Challenges are being worked through regarding the rollout for alternative custody in the southwest and expanding across the rest of Region 3. The new alternative transportation provider received positive feedback as they have been very responsive and good to work with.
- The primary state hospital for the far southwest part of Region 3 is now closed to admissions for a minimum of a two-year period due to a HVAC project. Any support from other areas is greatly appreciated. While Western has been designated as the new primary hospital, individuals are still being sent to various locations. Due to the high volume of people coming from the area, additional assistance may be necessary.
- Several boards are attempting to create sustainable supported employment programs.
- An opportunity was given across the region for some behavioral health commission engagements. Over the last couple of weeks there was an opportunity to participate in a statewide crisis work group, which has at least one more meeting to go. There have also been a couple of boards that had some behavioral health commission work group visits for a specific

MARCUS Alert workgroup and a secondary STEP-VA workgroup, providing further opportunities to address certain challenges being experienced.

D. Region 4- Laura Totty reported the following for Region 4:

- The region continues to work with their crisis hub and has an RFP that has closed. The process of reviewing proposals for mobile crisis response has begun. A regional crisis service youth and adult advisory council and steering committee is being developed and their first meeting will be held in the next 30 days.
- The second-year funding for permanent supportive housing has been accepted. The region is working to clearly define expectations and the scope of what they believe is feasible with the available funding. They are currently in the process of negotiating Exhibit Ds and intend to remain firm about what can realistically be accomplished and what falls outside their capacity.
- The crisis receiving center 23-hour program celebrated its first anniversary this year.
- A special thank you was given to RBHA and the regional office for the tremendous amount of work being done for Region 4.

E. Region 5- Nathan Woodard

- Region 5 CSBs are actively engaged in several innovative efforts, particularly related to Crisis Receiving Centers (CRCs). Boards are also involved in strategic planning as they anticipate possible funding reductions at the federal level.
- The Region 5 team expressed their gratitude to everyone for their recent visit to the area for the conference.

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

- QMHP Requirements:
  - The new regulations were put into place on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the revised QMHP requirements is to avoid a rigid "yes-and" approach. For instance, individuals with a bachelor's degree in psychology or a related field may already meet the required 80 hours of relevant content through their academic coursework. In such cases, no additional training hours would be necessary for registration if the degree program already covers the necessary content outlined by the Department of Health Professions. The same principle applies to associate degrees, which may partially fulfill the required training hours depending on the content.
  - A list of currently approved educational programs was included in the most recent materials sent out. However, these are not the only acceptable programs and other relevant degrees or coursework may also count toward the requirement.
  - Training programs may also be developed and submitted for approval by the Department of Health Professions. Providers, licensed by DBHDS are eligible to create and propose these programs. This opens the door for CSBs and the association to individually or collectively design and offer targeted curricula to address common gaps among incoming staff.
  - Staff currently working as QMHPs are not required to take any additional steps, as they are considered compliant under the existing framework.
  - It is critical to seek further clarification from the Department of Health Professions regarding what qualifies as acceptable content, how training hours are counted, and what options are available for bridging gaps.
  - It was reported that supervisors of QMHPs will be expected to have training to understand the role and responsibilities of a QMHP. However, there is currently no

formal oversight or mandated training process in place. Supervisors are responsible for documenting that such training has occurred. Additional guidance is expected to be provided on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

- The VACSB will be working on developing a process to determine how CSBs will assess and onboard new applicants under the revised framework. This is in terms of properly evaluating a candidate's educational background to determine if it meets the QMHP criteria or what additional training may be required.
- While the situation is currently fluid and somewhat unclear, there is confidence that the system will begin to become clearer as implementation progresses and further guidance is provided.
- Federal Level Changes to Medicaid:
  - Conversations are currently taking place with elected officials to focus on the known facts surrounding the changes to funding or eligibility in Medicaid and how the most modest changes will have a double impact on CSBs. This is in reference to how any changes in insurance coverage whether due to a reduction in FMAP or changes in eligibility will have a direct impact on CSBs. If individuals currently served by private providers lose coverage, they will likely turn to CSBs for services, as private providers may no longer be able to serve them. In return CSBs will be expected to absorb these individuals, thereby increasing demand. A second layer of impact comes from individuals already receiving services from CSBs. If these individuals lose their coverage, CSBs will still be expected to provide care now without a viable reimbursement stream. While the exact effects are yet to be determined, the concern is that CSBs will experience a "double hit" in terms of both increased demand and decreased funding.
  - The VACSB is working to strike a balance between over-communicating and under-communicating updates. Many policy or regulatory developments tend not to materialize due to various factors such as legal challenges or policy reversals. As a result, the Association has been selective in what is shared, aiming to avoid overwhelming stakeholders with information that may ultimately prove irrelevant. CSBs are encouraged to reach out if more information is needed as the Association is open to adjusting its approach if members prefer more frequent updates.
- Medicaid Redesign:
  - Currently, no elements of the redesign project are expected to take effect on July 1st of this year. The project is still in progress, and there remains time to review and prepare for the proposed changes. There is an upcoming informal public comment period on the next set of proposals from DMAS related to the redesign. This will offer the opportunity to engage closely with this process to provide feedback and monitor developments.
  - Attention will be given to the rates, especially for the new CPST service model as understanding how this rate is structured will be critical to assessing its feasibility and impact. The CPST model represents a significant shift from a list-based service structure to an umbrella service concept. Under this model, a broad range of activities would be considered components of a single service offering. This change will require a different way of thinking about how services are categorized and delivered. To this, it will be important to evaluate both the target population for

CPST and the readiness of CSBs to implement the service model in alignment with DMAS's expectations.

X. Other Items/Announcements

- Jennifer Faison shared her gratitude in the role of Executive Director of the VACSB and being continuously surrounded by great minds in the field.
- Special recognition and gratitude were given to Ingrid Barber who delivered her final report as Chair of the ED Forum. A special welcome was extended to Phil Caldwell as the incoming chair of the ED Forum as well as a thank you to Laura Totty for her six-year commitment to the ED forum. Ellen Harrison was welcomed as the new vice chair of the ED forum.
- Recognition was given for the extraordinary effort and success that went into organizing the Training and Development conference, from Camryn Miller, Valerie Long, and Ariel DeVoy with the VACSB along with the training and development committee.
- A sincere thank you was given to the outgoing Board of Directors members for their committed service and a welcome to those joining in July, emphasizing how critical their engagement is to sustain a strong and supportive system of care.

XI. Future meetings:

A. VACSB Board of Directors: July 23, 2025, VACSB Conference Room & Zoom

XII. Adjourn.



## VACSB 2025-2026 Calendar

### Executive Directors Forums

|                  |                                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 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) |
| January 20, 2026 | Richmond Marriott Downtown                    |
| March 10, 2026   | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| May 7, 2026      | Richmond Marriott Downtown                    |
| July 21, 2026    | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 8, 2026  | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center             |
| December 8, 2026 | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |

### VACSB Board of Directors Meetings

|                   |                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 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) |
| January 21, 2026  | Richmond Marriott Downtown                    |
| March 11, 2026    | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| May 8, 2026       | Richmond Marriott Downtown                    |
| July 22, 2026     | VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available) |
| October 9, 2026   | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center             |
| December 9, 2026  | 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 1-3, 2025   | ◆ | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |
| January 20-21, 2026 | ◆ | Richmond Marriott Downtown        |
| May 6-8, 2026       | ◆ | Richmond Marriott Downtown        |
| October 7-9, 2026   | ◆ | Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center |

# DRAFT Virginia Association of Community Services Boards Budget Priorities for 2026 General Assembly Session

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**CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC DEMONSTRATION:** The CCBHC model was developed at the federal level and has been implemented in multiple states over the last decade. The state adopted System Transformation Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA) which is based off of the core services and supports included in the CCBHC model:

|                 |                            |                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Same Day Access | Outpatient                 | Veteran and Family Services  |
| Case Management | Primary Care Screening     | Peer Family Support Services |
| Crisis Services | Psychiatric Rehabilitation | Care Coordination            |

In order to realize the potential of having these critical services in place, Virginia needs to fully implement the CCBHC model, and CSBs will play a critical role in the success of that implementation. Full implementation includes the development of a prospective payment system that covers the cost to deliver services based on a rate methodology that is tailored to the provider's circumstances.

States that have fully implemented the CCBHC model have seen significant improvements in their service delivery systems, including an expansion of capacity to serve children/youth, the uninsured and those without a prior source of outpatient care. In addition, CCBHCs have expanded access to substance use disorder treatment, including medication assisted treatment which helps to keep individuals engaged in their recovery.

**The VACSB will pursue legislation to ensure that Virginia is ready to apply for the federal CCBHC demonstration on 01 APR 2026.**

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD) WAIVER SERVICES: FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT COORDINATORS:** The VACSB is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for including \$8.7M in the FY26 budget to allow CSBs to recruit additional support coordinators. This funding is essential to ensure that Developmental Disability Waiver slots can be brought online quickly. **Therefore, the VACSB requests that this funding be made ongoing.**

**EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES:** VACSB requests 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.

**MARCUS ALERT PROGRAMS:** The Code of Virginia requires all localities with a population of greater than 40K individuals to participate in a MARCUS Alert program by 2028. In order to ensure this code mandate is fulfilled, the **VACSB requests funding for the 13 MARCUS Alert programs that will need to be brought online over the 2026 – 2028 biennium.**

**RESTORATION OF COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL:** The VACSB is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for including \$1.5M to allow for increased capacity to provide restoration on an outpatient basis and provide training to clinicians. The state has prioritized outpatient restoration services 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. **VACSB requests that this funding be made ongoing.**

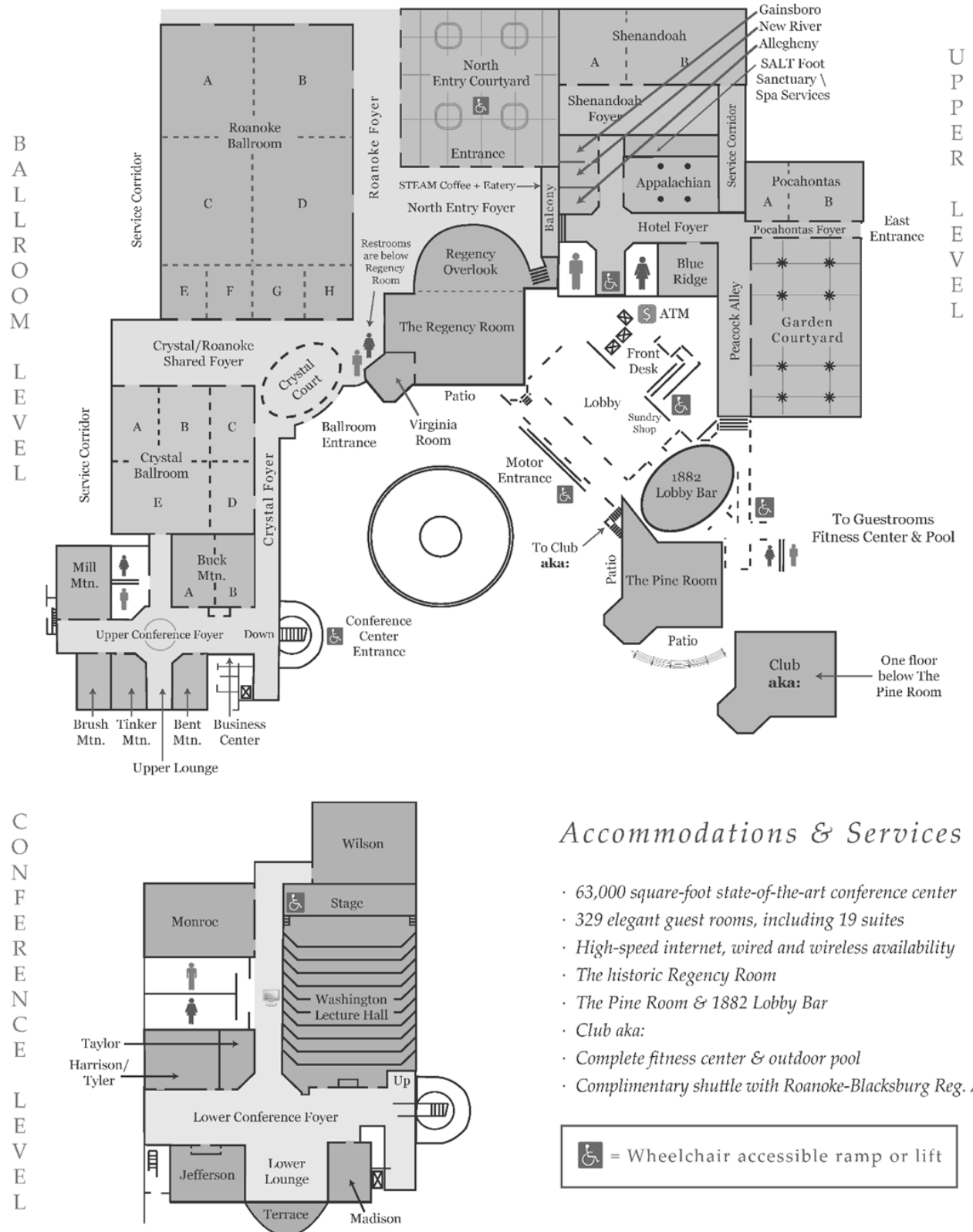
**PREVENTION SERVICES:** Prevention services are an important part of how CSBs serve the community across a full continuum. Federal funding cuts have threatened the progress that CSB prevention programs have made in the past several years. Schools, police departments and other community partners appreciate how robust and active CSB prevention programs have become. All of the federal pandemic funding has ended as of March 2025. To account for this loss, **VACSB requests 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.

# Hotel Roanoke Floor Plan



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= Wheelchair accessible ramp or lift

## NOTES

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## NOTES

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## NOTES

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