



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

October 7th – 9th



2026 PUBLIC POLICY — CONFERENCE —

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center



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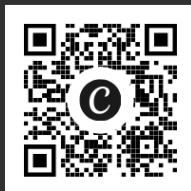
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Welcome Message from the VACSB Board Chair



On behalf of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Public Policy Conference at the Hotel Roanoke. We are delighted to have you here and look forward to another opportunity to come together, exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and advance the important work of behavioral health and developmental disability services across Virginia. If this is your first VACSB conference, we extend a special welcome to you. We hope you find this conference valuable and that you'll continue to be part of the VACSB community in the years to come.

We are pleased to begin Wednesday with our luncheon presentation, *From Skid Row to CEO: Building Resilience One Step at a Time*, featuring **Joe Roberts, keynote speaker, author, and humanitarian**. This keynote will offer an inspiring look at resilience, transformation, and the journey toward meaningful change.

The Wednesday afternoon workshops will begin at 1:30 pm and, after a 30-minute refreshment break, the 2nd set begins at 3:30 pm. This conference is strengthened by the expertise and perspectives of our state agency partners and CSB/BHA staff. We are grateful to those who have generously shared their time and knowledge to help make this year's conference informative, timely, and relevant.

Among the highlights of our Public Policy Conference are the Public Policy Panel and the Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon. Our Public Policy Panel presentation will include Daryl Washington Commissioner, DBHDS; Tammy Whitlock, Deputy Director for Complex Care, DMAS; Marvin Figueiroa, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia (invited); 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.

As we recognize and celebrate this year's Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award recipient, we also invite everyone to reflect on the collective impact of the work being done throughout our communities. 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 Joan Gartlan with us to present the award.

I am grateful to serve as your VACSB Chair and, most importantly, I want to thank each of you for the dedication, compassion, and commitment you bring to this work. I hope you enjoy the conference and your time in 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 Sponsors and Exhibitors

Sponsors and Exhibitors 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

2026 Public Policy Conference at a Glance

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

9:30 am – 5:00 pm	VACSB Registration Desk Opens Exhibit Center Opens (BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN)				North Entry Crystal Foyer
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	CONFERENCE OPENS – Buffet Luncheon				Roanoke A/B/C/D
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Keynote: From Skid Row to CEO: Building Resilience One Step at a Time Joe Roberts, Keynote Speaker, Author, and Humanitarian				
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Conference Workshops (concurrent)				
Wilson	Crystal A/B/C	Monroe	Crystal D/E	Buck Mountain	
Centering Youth Voice: The Power of Youth Support Partners in High- Fidelity Wraparound	From Avoidance to Alignment: Building a Feedback-Rich Organization	Peers Working Within Clinical Settings	Building Empathy in Healthcare: What My Patients and Families Have Taught Me	Come Walk in My Shoes, Listen with My Ears, Watch with My Eyes	
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Center				Crystal Foyer
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Conference Workshops (concurrent)				
Wilson	Crystal A/B/C	Monroe	Crystal D/E	Buck Mountain	
Invisible Labor: Using IFS to Work with Your Own Internal Activation	Sustaining Virginia’s Behavioral Health System: Making the Case for CCBHCs in a Changing Medicaid Environment	Creating Inclusive Mental Health Care for Autistic Clients	Medicaid Updates: DMAS Response to H.R.1, CCBHC Study, and Upcoming Policy Changes	Opioid Abatement Authority- How Settlement Funds Can & Are Working for CSBs	
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Welcome Reception - (Complimentary Hors d’oeuvres & Cash Bar)				Garden Courtyard

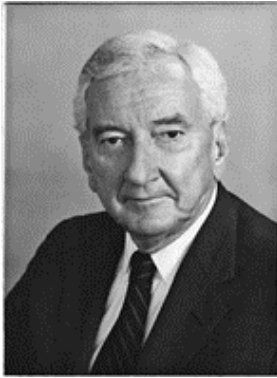
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

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	2026 Virginia Public Policy Panel Presentation Daryl Washington, Commissioner, DBHDS Tammy Whitlock, Deputy Director for Complex Care, DMAS Marvin Figueroa, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia (<i>invited</i>) R. Creigh Deeds, Senate of Virginia Sam Rasoul, Virginia House of Delegates	Roanoke A/B/C/D
12:00 pm – 1:45 pm	2026 Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon	Roanoke A/B/C/D
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	CSB/BHA Board Member Workshop – Better Discussions. Better Decisions. Better Boards.	Buck Mountain
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Group Meetings - Executive Directors Forum - Behavioral Health Council - Emergency Services Council - Human Resources Directors Council - Quality Leadership Council - Developmental Services Council - Children and Family Services Council - Prevention Services Council - Finance Directors Council - Physician Directors Meeting	Crystal A/B/C Wilson Monroe Tinker Mill Crystal D/E Brush Appalachian Jefferson Harrison-Tyler
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Center	Crystal Foyer
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Networking Reception - (Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar)	Garden Courtyard

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

8:00 am – 11:00 am	Registration Desk Open	Crystal Court
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.

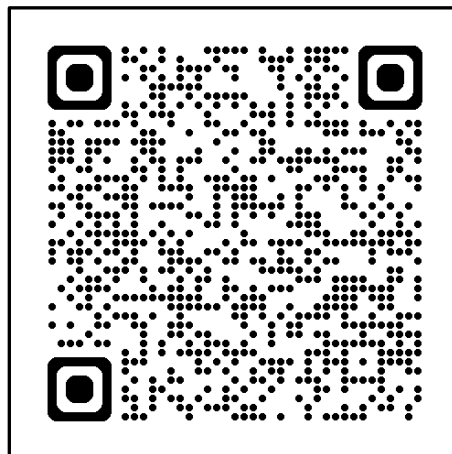
Throughout the years, the late Senator Gartlan was able to be with the VACSB to proudly present the award and to delight us with his sparkling humor and his ebullience. We honor his being with us in spirit and will always hold his memory dear, particularly each October upon the presentation of this award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

2025, Lester Saltzberg
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 2026 Public Policy Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors



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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VACSB 2026 Public Policy Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (Breakfast on Your Own)		ROOM
9:30 am	Exhibit Center and VACSB Registration Desk Open	Crystal Foyer/North
11:00 am	Buffet Luncheon	Roanoke A/B/C/D
12:00 pm	From Skid Row to CEO: Building Resilience One Step at a Time Presented by: Joe Roberts, Keynote Speaker, Author, and Humanitarian	
In this empowering keynote, Joe teaches audiences how to build the resiliency needed to succeed in the face of adversity and change by taking small, attainable steps. Sharing the story of his catastrophic failure and extraordinary success, Joe inspires audiences to see beyond their perceived limitations to overcome life’s challenges and embrace change. This keynote is ideal for anyone who is: Trying to adapt to significant change or disruption and enhance their resilience, Disconnected from their purpose and passion and showing signs of burnout or underperformance, Feeling stuck or holding onto limiting beliefs and a negative outlook, Struggling to see their potential and ability to accomplish anything! Learning Objectives: 1. Obtain actionable insights on building personal resilience no matter what challenge or change they are facing. 2. Have a greater understanding of the cumulative impact of small, consistent actions and the motivation to take the first step. 3. Develop renewed interest and focus in their work as they reconnect to their purpose and passion. 4. Gain tools for reframing a limiting mindset so they can see the possibilities in themselves and the world around them.		
1:15 – 1:30 pm	Stretch & Comfort Break	
1:30 pm	Conference Workshops (Concurrent)	
Centering Youth Voice: The Power of Youth Support Partners in High-Fidelity Wraparound		Wilson
Presented by: Kali Abebe, CPRS, RPRS, YSP, Certified HFW Trainer, Youth Support Partner, Valley Community Services Board and Danyelle Tobias, CRPS, YSP, Project Coordinator, Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center at Shineforth Centering Youth Voice: The Power of Youth Support Partners in High-Fidelity Wraparound explores how Youth Support Partners use lived experience to empower young people, strengthen engagement, and ensure youth voices are heard throughout the High-Fidelity Wraparound process. The presentation highlights the value of youth-centered practices, peer support, and practical strategies for improving outcomes for youth and families. Learning Objectives: 1. Understanding of Youth Support Partner role in High-Fidelity Wraparound. 2. Provide unique value of the YSP. 3. Understanding of System Impact of this role.		

From Avoidance to Alignment: Building a Feedback-Rich Organization Presented by: Nina E. Marino, MSW, LCSW, Vice President, Program Innovation & External Affairs, Shineforth and Chris Bennett, M.Div, Vice President of Strategy & Innovation, Shineforth Child & Family Services Most public service cultures don't lack care — they lack candor. Well-meaning leaders avoid hard conversations to protect relationships, harmony, or mission focus, and the cost shows up as unaddressed performance issues, quiet resentment, and turnover that could have been prevented. This session provides senior leaders, supervisors, HR/development professionals, and board members with a practical framework for building a feedback-rich culture in which honest feedback is treated as an act of care, not a risk to relationships. Drawing on Commitment 4 (Candor) from The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership and the dialogue tools from Crucial Conversations (Grenny, Patterson, McMillan & Switzler), participants will learn to name the avoidance patterns that quietly erode trust and mission effectiveness — and replace them with structured, safe, high-candor conversations. Attendees leave with language and a simple framework they can use immediately: in supervision, board relations, interdisciplinary teams, and difficult family or client conversations alike. <u>Learning Objectives:</u> 1. Participants will be able to name the three most common avoidance patterns (silence, sugar-coating, gossip) that block honest feedback in mission-driven teams, and the organizational cost of each. 2. Participants will engage (and practice) two models of candor and feedback based on Crucial Conversations and Conscious Leadership. 3. Participants will gain repeatable frameworks and starter scripts to use with their own team within the first week back at their organization.	Crystal A/B/C
Peers Working Within Clinical Settings Presented by: Becky Sterling, Ret. LNHA, QMHP, CPRS, Recovery Services Workforce Development Assistant, DBHDS This workshop highlights how Peer Recovery Specialists and clinical professionals each bring essential strengths to the recovery process. Peer Support is grounded in mutuality, authenticity and shared experience while clinical practice offers structure, assessment and treatment. Rather than blending the roles the message encourages collaboration that respects differences: peers contribute hope, connection and experiential insight and clinicians contribute clinical knowledge and therapeutic skill. Together these approaches create a more responsive and holistic recovery environment - one where people feel seen, supported and empowered. <u>Learning Objectives:</u> 1. Understand that peer support and clinical practice are distinct but mutually reinforcing approaches that when combined create richer outcomes. 2. Understanding what makes peer support distinct enhances collaboration and avoids diluting the peer role. 3. Understanding that peer Support requires a conscious commitment to boundaries, storytelling, community-based engagement and collecting data while retaining the heart of the work.	Monroe

Building Empathy in Healthcare: What My Patients and Families Have Taught Me Presented by: Robin Star, MSW, National Director of Business Development, Lakeside Neurologic This fun, interactive, and thought-provoking workshop brings the power of empathy to life through compelling case studies and real-life stories from patients and their families. Participants will examine how their experiences with healthcare providers affected their treatment, their recovery, and lives-and explore the vital role empathy plays in the delivery of quality care. Empathy in healthcare is a trainable clinical skill that enables clinicians to understand a patient's perspective, communicate that understanding, and respond in ways that strengthen trust and improve care. It is the human connection in healthcare-and the secret not only to achieving better outcomes, but also to reconnecting with why we pursued these professions in the service field in the first place-to help those in need and to make a meaningful difference in their lives. Learning objectives: 1. Identify how empathetic and non-empathetic interactions influence patient/client trust, treatment experiences, recovery and outcomes. 2. Recognize empathy as a practical, trainable clinical skill rather than simply a personal trait. 3. Apply strategies for understanding patients'/clients perspectives, communicating that understanding, and responding compassionately. 4. Analyze real-life cases and patient stories to identify opportunities for more empathetic care. 5. Strengthen patient/client-provider relationships through communication that promotes trust, dignity, and collaboration. 6. Reconnect with the purpose and meaning of your profession by recognizing the impact of human connection on patients/clients and families.		Crystal D/E
Come Walk in My Shoes, Listen with My Ears, Watch with My Eyes Presented by: Kathryn A. Baker, LPC, State Coordinator, Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind, Rappahannock Area CSB, Michael Bush, LPC, Cumberland Mt. CSB, Emmett Jones, PHD, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services, Cathee Wolford, PHD, Hampton Newport News CSB, Emily Bowers, Deaf Panelist, Aloma Long, DeafBlind Panelist, Gary Talley, Late Deafened Panelist This workshop will provide a panel discussion of each of the four populations of hearing loss: Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind. The panelists will describe how they have navigated family interactions, school experiences, vocational experiences and current challenges as a person with a hearing loss. The goal is for the audience to understand the differences presented by each category of loss. The second part of the workshop will focus on the specific behavioral health needs of this population and provide an introduction to the current services being offered through the community services boards across the Commonwealth. Each of the providers who work in different regions will be available to describe their services and connect with the CSBs in their regions. Learning objectives: 1. Participants will be able to identify the different categories of hearing loss. 2. Participants will be able to identify the social emotional implications of each loss. 3. Participants will be able to locate services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind in each of the CSB Regions in the Commonwealth. 4. Participants will be able to identify how to secure interpreters for services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind.		Buck Mountain
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Exhibit Center and Refreshment Break	Crystal Foyer
3:30 pm	Conference Workshops (<i>Concurrent</i>)	
Invisible Labor: Using IFS to Work with Your Own Internal Activation Presented by: Charlie Pleasant, LCSW, Owner, Pleasant Clinical & Consulting Company As clinical therapists, we often focus all our energy on supporting our clients daily, but what's happening with our emotions as we serve others? The invisible labor of managing our own internal reactions, triggered parts, and emotional activation can quietly drain our presence and effectiveness. In "Invisible Labor: Using IFS to Work with Your Own Internal Activation Before, During & After Sessions," you'll learn how to identify and tend to your own activated parts, creating a calm, and compassionate presence for yourself and your clients. Through experiential IFS practices, this workshop offers tools to manage your internal responses in real time, reduce emotional exhaustion, and show up fully in every session. Learning Objectives: 1. Identifying parts that become activated while serving others. 2. Practice the art of slowing down, noticing and befriending internal activation. 3. Creating intentions to connect with internal system before, during and after serving your clients.		Wilson

Sustaining Virginia’s Behavioral Health System: Making the Case for CCBHCs in a Changing Medicaid Environment Presented by: Alicia Kirley, MBA, Senior Director of Practice Improvement, National Council for Mental Wellbeing and Taylor Sabol, Policy & Advocacy Specialist, National Council for Mental Wellbeing As federal Medicaid policy and financing changes place new pressures on states, providers, and the people they serve, behavioral health leaders need both a clear understanding of the changing environment and a compelling vision for what comes next. This interactive workshop will examine how the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model can help Virginia sustain critical community-based services, strengthen its behavioral health crisis continuum, expand timely access to comprehensive care, and bring greater accountability and sustainability to behavioral health financing. Participants will explore the value of CCBHC adoption from state, provider, and community perspectives and learn how to communicate that value effectively to policymakers and other decision-makers. The session will translate policy and CCBHC concepts into practical advocacy messages, evidence, and tools that Community Services Board leaders can adapt for executive, legislative, state, and local conversations. <u>Learning Objectives:</u> 1. Explain the implications of federal Medicaid changes for Virginia’s behavioral health providers, crisis system, and communities. 2. Describe how the CCBHC model can support sustainable financing, comprehensive care, workforce capacity, and connections across the crisis continuum. 3. Apply practical, audience-specific messages and tools to advocate for CCBHC adoption with state and local policymakers and other decision-makers.	Crystal A/B/C
Creating Inclusive Mental Health Care for Autistic Clients Presented by: Lindsey Nebeker, BA, Creative Services Consultant Autistic clients may face barriers to mental health care before they enter a therapy room, during a session, or while using telehealth. Sensory demands, uncertainty, technology, and communication expectations can affect whether a client is able to access care, express their needs, and participate fully. These barriers may be mistaken for disengagement or resistance. This presentation draws on autistic perspectives, therapist and client experiences, and research-informed guidance to explore practical changes to the environment, care process, and therapeutic interaction. Participants will leave with strategies for collaborating on individualized supports and for sharing responsibility for access across providers, clinical teams, and organizations. <u>Learning Objectives:</u> 1. Identify environmental, procedural, technological, and communication barriers that can affect autistic clients’ access to and participation in both in-person and virtual mental health care. 2. Apply individualized strategies to increase predictability, sensory access, communication choice, and autonomy in mental health care. 3. Distinguish between changes that can be made by individual providers, clinical teams, and organizations to support more accessible, consistent, and inclusive care.	Monroe
Medicaid Updates: DMAS Response to H.R.1, CCBHC Study, and Upcoming Policy Changes Presented by: Lisa Jobe-Shields, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Division Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services and Laura Reed, LCSW, Behavioral Health Senior Program Advisor, Department of Medical Assistance Services In this presentation, we will provide updates on key Virginia Medicaid projects related to Community Services Boards. This will include Behavioral Health Redesign updates, policy changes directed by the General Assembly, and studies and reports directed by the General Assembly. <u>Learning objectives:</u> 1. Understand current status and key steps needed for Behavioral Health Redesign/new services. 2. Increased awareness of timeline for GA directed policy changes in the current year. 3. Opportunity to ask questions about ongoing Medicaid initiatives or raise issues.	Crystal D/E

Opioid Abatement Authority- How Settlement Funds Can & Are Working for CSBs Presented by: Kat Dupre, Local Government Opioid Settlement Liaison - Northern Region, Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and Erika Tanner, Local Government Liaison, Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority This workshop will provide an overview of how CSBs can access and utilize OAA Settlement Funds in partnership with their localities. Participants will learn how CSBs can partner with their localities to stand up grants based on their community needs, gain a better understanding of OAA funding, and explore examples of programs that have been supported through these funds. Learning Objectives: 1. Overview of how CSBs can access OAA funding 2. Examples of Programs CSBs can access funding for. 3. Partnering with Localities to access funds.		Buck Mountain
5:00 pm	Welcome Reception Join your colleagues for light refreshments and a cash bar	Garden Courtyard

Thursday, October 8, 2026		
8:00 am	Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Center	Crystal Foyer
9:30 am	2026 Virginia Public Policy Panel Presentation Panel Members: • Daryl Washington, Commissioner, DBHDS • Tammy Whitlock, Deputy Director for Complex Care, DMAS • Marvin Figueroa, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia <i>(invited)</i> • R. Creigh Deeds, Senate of Virginia • Sam Rasoul, Virginia House of Delegates Moderator: Gib Sloan, VACSB Board Chair	Roanoke A/B/C/D
12:00 pm	2026 Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. Award Luncheon 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	CSB/BHA Board Member Workshop - <i>Better Discussions. Better Decisions. Better Boards.: Practical Tools for More Confident Board Decision Making</i> Presented by: Kimberly A. Carlson, Ph.D., CEO, Tractus Strategic Partners LLC and Charity L. Boyette, Ph.D., COO, Tractus Strategic Partners, LLC Great board decisions rarely happen by accident. Too often, boards find themselves revisiting the same conversations, getting pulled into operational details, or struggling to build consensus on complex issues. High-performing boards approach decision making differently. They ask better questions, welcome diverse perspectives, and keep discussions focused on the strategic issues that matter most. Through interactive activities, real-world examples, and practical decision-making tools, this workshop will help board members turn productive discussions into confident decisions. Participants will leave with techniques they can immediately apply to strengthen governance, improve board meetings, and make better decisions together. Learning Objectives: 1. Spot the common decision-making traps that can derail board discussions—and learn practical strategies to avoid them. 2. Ask better questions and facilitate stronger discussions that keep the board focused on strategy rather than operations. 3. Leave with a practical decision-making framework that helps boards evaluate options, build consensus, and move confidently from discussion to action.	Buck Mountain
2:00 pm	Group Meetings • Executive Directors Forum • Behavioral Health Council • Emergency Services Council • Human Resources Directors Council • Quality Leadership Council • Developmental Services Council • Children and Family Services Council • Prevention Services Council • Finance Directors Council • Physician Directors Meeting	Crystal A/B/C Wilson Monroe Tinker Mill Crystal D/E Brush Appalachian Jefferson Harrison-Tyler
3:00 -3:30 pm	Refreshments in Exhibit Center	Crystal Foyer
5:00 pm	Networking Reception - (light refreshments and cash bar)	Garden Courtyard
Friday, October 9, 2026		
8:00 am	Registration Open	Crystal Court
8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast	Crystal Foyer
9:00 am	VACSB Combined Board of Directors/Membership Business Meeting – Agenda Page 31	Crystal Ballroom
<i>The conference concludes with the adjournment of the Board/Business Meeting</i>		

Conference Faculty

Kali Abebe, CPRS, RPRS, YSP, is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and serves as a Youth Support Partner at Valley Community Services Board. Drawing from her lived experience as a youth navigating mental health challenges, she empowers young people and families to find their voice and build on their strengths. In addition to her frontline work, Kali serves on the Advisory Board of the Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center, and is a Certified High Fidelity Wraparound Trainer.

Kathryn A. Baker, M.Ed., LPC is the State Coordinator for Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind. Her office is hosted by the Valley Community Services Board in Staunton. She also has office hours in Fredericksburg and Roanoke Virginia. Her duties include ensuring that services are accessible to persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened or DeafBlind in the Community Services Boards and the facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services across the state. Ms. Baker is a Licensed Professional Counselor and provides counseling services and as well as advocating for accessibility. She has worked for more than forty years in the field, first in rehabilitation at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and then in mental health at the Valley Community Services Board before assuming her current position as State Coordinator.

Chris Bennett, M.Div., joined Shineforth Child & Family Services as Vice President of Strategy & Innovation in October 2025, leading organizational learning and strategy, philanthropy, and communications and marketing for the 125-year-old Richmond agency (formerly United Methodist Family Services). Prior to Shineforth, Chris spent 13 years leading small, medium, and large United Methodist congregations across Virginia, then nearly a decade as a senior leader at The Spark Mill, a Richmond-based consulting firm, consulting with nonprofits on strategy, organizational development, and innovation while also helping lead the firm itself as a small business. Over the years, Chris has experienced leadership failures, successes, and lessons through congregational, consulting, and small-business leadership; experiences that have given him the opportunity to test different leadership models. A continuous learner, Chris enjoys trying and iterating on new ideas in service to human flourishing. He holds a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary and a bachelor's in Communication Studies from Virginia Tech. Chris lives in Richmond with his wife, Jill, and their two boys, Henry and Nicholas, and enjoys hiking, running, reading, and cheering on his kids at football and lacrosse games.

Charity L. Boyette, Ph.D., is Chief Operating Officer and Principal Partner at Tractus Strategic Partners. She brings more than 20 years of leadership experience spanning the private sector, the U.S. Foreign Service, and higher education, giving her a broad perspective on leadership, organizational change, and strategy execution. Prior to co-founding Tractus, Charity held leadership roles with Huntington Ingalls Industries, the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer, and Virginia Tech. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs from Virginia Tech, with expertise in organizational leadership and public management.

Kimberly A. Carlson, Ph.D., is CEO and Principal Partner at Tractus Strategic Partners, where she helps nonprofit and public organizations strengthen leadership, governance, and strategic planning. A former clinical social worker turned organizational consultant, she brings more than 25 years of experience helping people, teams, and organizations navigate change and make better decisions. Prior to co-founding Tractus, Kimberly held leadership roles at Virginia Tech, including Director of the Business Leadership Center, Director of Volunteer Advisory Board Strategy, and Associate Professor of Practice. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs from Virginia Tech, with expertise in organizational leadership and nonprofit management, an M.S.W. in Clinical Social Work from Florida State University, and bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Theatre Arts from Virginia Tech.

Senator R. Creigh Deeds has served in the Senate of Virginia since 2001 and represents the 11th District, which includes the Counties of Albemarle, Amherst, Louisa (part), and Nelson and the City of Charlottesville. Senator Deeds serves on five standing committees and chairs the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee and the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. He sits on the Privileges and Elections, Rules, and Courts of Justice committees. He also chairs the Behavioral Health Commission and is a member of the Joint Commission on Health Care and the Health Insurance Reform Commission. He is a lawyer in private practice.

Kathleen “Kat” Dupré is a senior public-sector and business leader with more than 15 years of experience advancing initiatives across government, public safety, crisis management, public health, technology, strategic communications, and animal nutrition. She brings a multidisciplinary perspective to complex operational, regulatory, and stakeholder environments, translating strategy into measurable outcomes and sustainable impact. Kat holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Graduate Studies in Paralegal, and professional training through the Correctional Service of Canada. She began her federal public-service career as a Correctional Officer at Saskatchewan Penitentiary multi-level men's institution in Canada, where she earned an award for the apprehension of an offender escaping lawful custody. She subsequently supported business analysis and technology initiatives for the Correctional Service of Canada's National Offender Management System. She has also held roles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in internal personnel crisis management and served with the Public Health Agency of Canada in the Office of the Vice-President, Chronic Disease Prevention Branch. Across these positions, she developed expertise in risk management, operational coordination, systems implementation, and public-sector program delivery. Kat currently serves as a Local Government Opioid Settlement Liaison for the Northern Region with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, where she leads engagement with local governments and community partners across Northern Virginia to promote the compliant, strategic, and effective use of opioid

settlement funds. Her responsibilities include stakeholder alignment, technical assistance, policy and legislative compliance, and support for evidence-based initiatives designed to strengthen community response and improve public-health outcomes. She is also Vice President of Marketing and Co-Owner of Watchdog Nutrition LLC for Lunchbox® Real Food for Dogs, a science-driven pet nutrition company. In this capacity, she directs marketing, communications, brand strategy, advertising, customer engagement, and business development. She has helped guide the development and commercialization of patented innovations in canine nutrition and pet food, integrating scientific research, market strategy, and customer-focused execution to advance the company's growth and competitive position. As an active member of Virginia's equestrian community, Kat serves on the Board of Directors for Bull Run Hunt Club, contributing to governance, strategic perspective, and community leadership in support of land stewardship, conservation, rural open-space preservation, and equestrian heritage.

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 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Lisa received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from University of Memphis and completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Medical University of South Carolina.

Alicia Kirley, MBA, is Senior Director of Practice Improvement at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, where she leads strategic initiatives focused on behavioral health system transformation, integrated care, and implementation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model. She works with states, health systems, community providers, and federal partners to advance sustainable approaches to improving access to mental health and substance use care, strengthening crisis response systems, and supporting whole-person care. With more than 15 years of experience in health care transformation, Alicia has led large-scale technical assistance, consulting, and quality improvement initiatives that help organizations translate policy and financing opportunities into practical strategies for improving care delivery and outcomes. Her work includes supporting CCBHC implementation, collaborative care and integrated care models, workforce development, quality measurement, and health system partnerships. Alicia is a frequent speaker on behavioral health policy, financing, implementation science, and organizational change. She is passionate about helping states and communities build sustainable, person-centered systems that improve access to high-quality behavioral health care for all.

Nina E. Marino, MSW, LCSW, is the Vice President of Program Innovation & External Affairs at Shineforth Child and Family Services, formerly United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). She also serves as the Government Affairs Chair of the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA). Nina comes to Shineforth 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 including expanding school-based mental health through public-private partnerships, strengthening the mobile crisis workforce, advancing adolescent substance use treatment and recovery services, expanding youth-focused evidence-based practices, and building the Virginia Mental Health Access Program. She also served as a national consultant with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Child Welfare Strategy Group, improving permanency outcomes for older youth in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and has held non-profit leadership roles building trauma-informed case management programs and supervising statewide teams in treatment foster care, and adoption-competent mental health services. She started her career as a therapist providing trauma-focused services to children and adolescents in a community mental health center, and holds a Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University; she is a licensed clinical social worker.

Lindsey Nebeker, BA, is a Creative Services & Design Consultant with more than two decades of professional experience in community engagement, conference presentations, and workshop development, with a longstanding focus on autism and disability. In her consulting work, Lindsey develops presentation and visual content design, educational and training materials, reports and toolkits, brand and campaign collateral, digital content, websites, and broader communications support for universities, nonprofit organizations, research teams, and other mission-driven projects. She previously spent more than a decade with the Autism Society of America, serving in development and marketing roles and supporting national communications, fundraising, conferences, digital campaigns, and resources distributed across its nationwide affiliate network. Lindsey has collaborated on research and training efforts including Autistic Adults and Stakeholders Engaging Together (AASET), the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), and ECHO Autism Communities. She also contributes to multidisciplinary clinical hub teams, bringing a perspective informed by lived experience to case-based discussions and helping develop training materials for healthcare professionals. Lindsey served as a non-federal public member of the federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) from 2021–2025 and currently serves as Research & Learning Committee Co-Leader with the Institute for Exceptional Care's IDD Advocate Corps and as a member of Prosper Health's Clinical and Research Advisory Board. Earlier in her advocacy work, she was a founding board member of the Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network (AWN). Lindsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology with a minor in Photography from the College of Santa Fe and has completed the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities' Partners in Policymaking® Leadership Advocacy Training Program and Mental Health First Aid training. As an autistic adult and a sibling to an autistic adult with high support needs, Lindsey brings perspectives shaped by both personal and family experience, with particular attention to the diversity of support needs and communication styles. Her work and community involvement have explored autism and neurodiversity in relation to mental health, healthcare access, relationships and sexuality, self-determination, intersectionality, and the varied needs and priorities of autistic people across

different stages of life. In her free time, Lindsey enjoys traveling, photography, composing music on her 1909 Steinway piano, and spending time with dogs.

Charnessa “Charlie” Pleasant, LCSW, is a Certified IFS Therapist, Trainer for the Internal Family Systems Institute and Relational Care Expert. Through her work, she supports people with understanding the different sides of themselves that show up in how they think, feel, and connect with themselves and others. Charlie understands much of what clients struggle with, be it in relationships, self-worth, or managing emotions or establishing and maintaining effective boundaries, comes from old habits that developed to protect ourselves from past pain. Her work supports people with building a kinder relationship within themselves, so the parts of them that feel hurt or unseen can finally feel safe, seen and fully understood. Charlie has partnered with organizations such as Red Hat, Inc. (a subsidiary of IBM), North Alabama Chapter of The Society for Human Resource Management and the Virginia Anti-Violence Project. She has been regularly featured on WTVR CBS6 providing expertise in emotional health and wellness for Central Virginia residents. Charlie also serves as a board member for Henrico County Area Mental Health and Disabilities Services Board, which advocates for people living and thriving with mental health and different developmental abilities. Charlie graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and holds master’s degrees in Social Work and Women and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to transitioning into her career as a licensed clinical therapist and consultant, she enjoyed a fulfilling career in higher education for more than 15 years; serving in roles such as the Assistant Director of Education and Training with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center at The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Program Coordinator for the Center for Multicultural Affairs and Adjunct Professor with the Department of Women & Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University.

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 Health and Human Services 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 a father of three children, Sam will continue to work for a brighter future 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 Project BRAVO initiative and oversee all Mental Health policy development. Laura has more than 19 years’ experience in child and family clinical social work practice and program management. 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.

Joe Roberts aka the Skidrow CEO is an expert on resilience and change. Having experienced both catastrophic failure and extraordinary success, Joe teaches how to overcome the roadblocks that get in the way of high performance. He helps companies and individuals redefine what’s truly possible by confronting limiting mindsets. Participants at Joes’ events leave inspired and moved to action. What is most amazing about Joe is that in 1989 he was living on the streets of Vancouver as a homeless skid row addict. Through perseverance, determination and his resilient human spirit, Joe pulled himself out of darkness and despair, to become a highly respected business and community leader. Joe is the winner of the Ontario Premiers Award, The Courage to Come Back Award, has received an Honorary Doctorate from Laurentian University and was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada.

Taylor Sabol is a Policy & Advocacy Specialist at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, where she supports federal and state policy initiatives to advance access to high-quality mental health and substance use care. Her work focuses on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), behavioral health financing, federal and state policy analysis, and implementation strategies that strengthen community-based behavioral health systems. Taylor collaborates with states, providers, policymakers, and national partners to translate policy into practical approaches that improve access to care, support behavioral health workforce sustainability, and strengthen crisis response systems.

Robin Star, MSW, is the National Director of Business Development for Lakeside Neurologic, a post-acute transitional living facility for brain injury, spinal cord injury, neurobehavioral and neurodivergent adults and children located in Central Florida. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy and a Master's Degree in Social Work. She serves on the board of the state of Florida Case Management Society of America and the Florida Brain Injury Coalition. She is a nationally recognized motivational speaker specializing in brain injury, behavioral healthcare, and inspirational healthcare. With decades of experience in healthcare including administrative and clinical roles in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, occupational medicine, urgent care, psychiatric and addiction services, she has dedicated her career to elevating patient care and empowering healthcare providers.

Becky Sterling, LNHA, QMHP, CPRS, is the retired founding Director of Recovery Services at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), where she led initiatives to embed recovery, resiliency, and lived experience into policy, including advancing the Peer Recovery Specialist certification program and alternative transportation models. With a background establishing one of Virginia’s first peer-staffed service models at the Middle Peninsula–Northern Neck CSB, Sterling has deeply influenced the state’s recovery landscape and recently returned to support the Peer Workforce Development Director.

Erika Tanner serves as a Local Government Liaison with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA), supporting 31 cities and counties across Central Virginia in the strategic and effective use of opioid settlement funds. In this role, she works closely with local governments and community partners to foster engagement, provide technical assistance, and expand access to OAA funding opportunities that address substance use and recovery needs within their communities. Erika holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development from Virginia Tech and a Master of Education in Counselor Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to joining the OAA in 2025, she served as a Community Planner with the Southside Planning District Commission, where she supported regional initiatives and local government collaboration. She also brings experience as a Professional School Counselor, providing her with a strong foundation in community engagement, behavioral health, and public service.

Danyelle Tobias, CRPS, YSP, is the Project Coordinator for the Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center (VWIC) at UMFS. Since joining in 2024, she has supported statewide training initiatives and helped strengthen VWIC's systems and operations. As a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) and former Youth Support Partner in residential settings, Danyelle has worked directly with youth to promote self-advocacy, resilience, and meaningful participation in their care. She remains dedicated to elevating youth voices and supporting the High-Fidelity Wraparound workforce.

Daryl Washington, LCSW, in January 2026, was appointed by Governor Abigail Spanberger as Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). DBHDS is a state agency that operates 12 state hospitals and centers with over 5,600 employees and oversees a \$2 billion system that annually serves over 200,000 Virginians and families struggling with behavioral health disorders and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining DBHDS, Daryl served as Executive Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), a role he was appointed to in 2018. In this role, he was responsible for overall operations at the CSB, which is the public behavioral healthcare and developmental disability services agency for the County of Fairfax and Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Prior to serving as the executive director, Daryl served as the Deputy Director of Clinical Operations for the CSB. Daryl has 32 years of experience in the behavioral healthcare field and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for the past 30 years. During Daryl's professional career, he has also worked for Fairfax County Public Schools as a school social worker and several private behavioral healthcare organizations. He has clinical training to provide services to youth, adolescents, adults and couples. Daryl served as a board member of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors, and Volunteer Fairfax. Daryl holds a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's in social work from North Carolina State University.

Tammy Whitlock received her Bachelor's from Longwood University and her Master's in Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to coming to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) Tammy worked in the areas of physical rehabilitation, mental health, and juvenile justice. Tammy started working with DMAS in 1994 as a Rehabilitation Analyst and has held various management positions in Long Term Care, Maternal & Child Health and Managed Care. Tammy currently serves as the Deputy of Complex Care overseeing behavioral health services, managed LTSS, and all long-term care programs such as community-based waivers and nursing facilities.



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**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Children & Family Services Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Brush**

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Partner Updates and Related Council Q&A/Discussion

- DBHDS, Office of Child & Family Services – Kari Savage & Katharine Hunter
- CCCA
- OCS – Scott Reiner

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

- Regional Crisis & Other Program Information Sharing

VACSB Committee Updates

- Administrative Policy
- Development & Training
- Finance
- Public Policy
- Quality & Outcomes
- Regulatory
- DMC

Open Council

Dialogue

Adjournment

Next Meeting – TBD Late November/Early December 2026

NOTES:



Discussing rural health issues at the grassroots level
and how state & federal policies play out
in our local communities

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RURAL HEALTH VOICE CONFERENCE

November 18-19, 2026

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SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- Rural Health Transformation
- Opioid Abatement Authority
- Federal Updates
- Rural Leadership
- Cardiovascular Health
- Strategic Storytelling
- Planning & Implementation
- Finance/Revenue Cycles
- Alpha-gal Syndrome
- Supporting Rural Birth Workers

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Developmental Services Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Crystal D/E**

AGENDA

Opening & Updates: La Voyce Reid, Chair

DS Directory Updates: Autumn Richardson

Announcements & Reminders: La Voyce Reid, Chair

DBHDS/DMAS Partner Updates:

- DBHDS Early Intervention/Part C: Kyla Patterson
- DBHS Waiver Network Supports: Nicole DeStefano
- DBHDS Provider Network Supports: Amie Brittain
- DBHDS Assistant Commissioner: Eric Williams
- DMAS High Needs Supports: Ann Bevan/Jason Perkins

Closed Session: DD Council-Only Discussion

Regional Updates

Region I: Tina Martina
Region II: Sierra Simmons
Region III: Wendy Gullion
Region IV: Erin Austin
Region V: Kathleen O'Keefe

VACSB Committee Reports:

Public Policy: Sierra Simmons
Regulatory: Wendy Gullion
Development & Training: Shannon Clark
Data Management: Natacha Dolson
Quality & Outcomes: Wendy Gullion

Transfer Protocol Committee: Steve Stewart

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Emergency Services Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Monroe**

AGENDA

Welcome / Roll Call / Announcements

- I. DBHDS Updates:**
 - . Lars Messerschmidt: Crisis Division Updates
 - a. Gail Paysour & Dustin Wilcox: AT Updates
 - b. Victoria Todd- Linkous: State Hospital Updates
 - c. Shannon Richardson: BHL Updates
- II. New Business:**
 - . Pending
- III. Old Business:**
 - . ECO-TDO Supplement on Virginia Regulatory Town Hall-Withdrawn
 - . [Update to Temporary Detention Orders Supplement](#)
 - a. CRC Medical Clearance meeting - Prefer Teams or at in-person VACSB Public Policy conference?
- IV. General Topics :(VACSB, BHC [Meetings](#) , VACIT)**
- V. Committee Updates:**
 - . Administrative Public Policy Committee – Allison Guernsey
 - a. DMC Committee – New ES Council DMC Reps
 - . Adrienne Baker, Jason Adkins, Erin Janovec
 - b. Legislative Policy Committee – Cheryl St. John/Andrea Hess
 - c. PMRC Committee - Heather Baxter
 - d. Training Committee – Natasha Randall
- VI. Regional Updates:**
 - . Region 1:
 - a. Region 2: Andrea Hess
 - b. Region 3: Erin Janovec
 - c. Region 4: Scott Ward
 - d. Region 5: Shannon Hodges
- VII. Open Floor:**
- VIII. Next Meeting Virtual: November 5th [New Time: 2pm-4pm](#)**

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Behavioral Health Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Wilson**

AGENDA

I. BH Council Chairs Introduction, Welcome, Roll Call, & Call for Agenda Items.

- Kheia Hilton, BH Council Co-Chair, khilton@grcsb.org
- Michele Ebright, BH Council Co-Chair & Council Secretary, mebright@crossroadscsb.org

II. DBHDS Updates

- Candace Roney, Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports (DBHDS)
- Meredith Nusbaum, Office of Mental Health Wellness and Recovery Supports (DBHDS)

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** – Debra O’Beirne, Fairfax-Falls Church
- **Regulatory Committee** – Michelle Ebright, Crossroads
- **Finance Committee** – LeNelle Mozell, PWCSB
- **Quality and Outcomes Committee** – Jodie E. Burton, Danville-Pittsylvania

IV. Peer Support Services Subcommittee report – Robyn Collins, HRCSB and Christine DuBois, RACSB

V. Council Members’ Questions/Comments/Announcement/Kudos

- a. Discussion re: Barrier Crimes laws
- b. Narcan Training Reform
- c. CCBHC Pilot Share
- d. Counseling related to AI/Human relationships (Cont.)

VI. Call for Council Secretary

VII. Next Meeting Dates

December 2026- Virtual
January 2027 – In-person
April 2027- Virtual
May 2027- In-person

VIII. Adjournment

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Prevention Services Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Appalachian**

AGENDA

Meeting Facilitated by:

Michelle Wagaman, Rappahannock Area CSB, Co-Chair

Regina Clark, Piedmont CSB, Co-Chair

Timekeeping and Minutes by:

Emily Mullins, Dickenson County BHS

Welcome and Rollcall

DBHDS Updates

Group Discussion

Prevention Initiatives for 2026-2027 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
 - a. Community Needs Assessment
- f. Cannabis
- g. Opioid Response (REVIVE, Harm Reduction)
- h. Other Curriculums/Initiatives Implemented

Individual CSB and Regional Updates

VACSB Committee Reports

Next Meeting and Adjournment

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Human Resources Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Tinker**

AGENDA

- Welcome/Agenda (Crystal Homer, Chair)
- Introductions and approval of minutes from May meeting
- Workforce reporting, peer reporting, policies, protocols, HR practices
- Round table discussion
- Break (3:00 – 3:30)
- Next Meeting Date/Agenda
- Employment Legal Updates with Mike Gardner from Woods Rogers (3:45-5)
- Adjournment

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Quality Leadership Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Mill**

AGENDA

Alexandria	☐	Dickenson Co.	☐	Highlands	☐	Portsmouth	☐
Alleghany Highlands	☐	District 19	☐	Horizon	☐	Prince William	☐
Arlington	☐	Eastern Shore	☐	Loudon MHSADS	☐	Rappahannock	☐
Blue Ridge	☐	Encompass	☐	Middle Peninsula – NN	☐	Region 10	☐
Chesapeake	☐	Fairfax-Falls Church	☐	Mount Rogers	☐	RBHA	☐
Chesterfield	☐	Goochland-Powhatan	☐	New River Valley	☐	Rockbridge	☐
Colonial	☐	Hampton-Newport News	☐	Norfolk	☐	Southside	☐
Crossroads	☐	Hanover	☐	Northwestern	☐	Valley	☐
Cumberland Mountain	☐	Harrisonburg/Rockingham	☐	Piedmont	☐	VA Beach	☐
Danville/Pittsylvania	☐	Henrico MHDS	☐	Planning District 1	☐	Western Tidewater	☐

1. VACSB Committee/Council Reports
 - a. Cardinal/CCC Plus/Medallion 4.0—Beth Ludeman Hopkins
 - b. Regulatory Committee
 - c. Others
2. DBHDS Updates:
 - a. Britt Welch, Office of Community Quality Improvement (updates on MART and ECTA)
3. DMAS Updates
4. Regional Meeting Updates:
5. Recent Audits/Outcomes/Trends:
6. Additional Items from the Council At Large:
 - a. AI discussion on utilization in our agencies

VACSB Quality Leadership Council Schedule for 2026:

- December 11, 2026

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Finance Directors Council
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Jefferson**

AGENDA

2:00-2:20: Welcome, Introductions – 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
- Initiatives
 - Behavioral Health Redesign
 - CCBHC Workgroup
- Federal Reimbursement Reviews by DBHDS
- Performance Contract
 - Exhibits D
 - VACSB Admin Policy Committee re: FY28 contract
- Unexpended Funds
- Other Issues

3:15-3:45: Break

3:45-4:15: Subcommittee Report Outs

- a. Accounts Receivable
- b. Administrative Policy
- c. Data Management
- d. KPIs
- e. Public Policy
- f. Web Grants
- Regional Reports
 - i. Region 1 – Kelly Crickenberger (Region Ten)
 - ii. Region 2 – Latoya Miller (Fairfax-Falls Church)
 - iii. Region 3 – Kim Howell (PD1)
 - iv. Region 4 - Marty Shepherd (Henrico CSB)
 - v. Region 5 – Andrew Jurewicz (Western Tidewater)
- g. CFO orientation subcommittee – need volunteer

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

Next Meeting: Annual Finance Directors' Retreat– January 2027

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Executive Directors Forum
October 8, 2026 2:00 – 5:00pm Room: Crystal A/B/C

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – *Rebecca Holmes*
- II. Additions to the Agenda
- III. DBHDS Updates – *DBHDS Staff*
- IV. VACSB Reports and New Business
 - A. General Assembly Preparations – *Jennifer Faison*
 - B. Unspent Balances – *Group Discussion*
 - C. PSH/DAP Work Group – *Jennifer Faison*
 - D. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert – *Group Discussion*
 - E. Continued Conversation on Re-regionalizing TDO Admissions – *Group Discussion*
- V. DMAS Updates – *Group Discussion*
 - A. Medicaid Redesign
 - B. H.R. 1 Impacts
- VI. Committee Updates
 - A. Administrative Policy – *Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison*
 - B. Public Policy – *Mary Cole/Greg Preston*
 - C. Regulatory – *Melissa Lucy/Heather Petrus*
 - D. Service Development – *Margaret Graham/MiMi Sedjat*
 - E. Quality & Outcomes – *Brandon Rogers/Daphne Cunningham*
 - F. Training & Development – *Ingrid Barber/Kim Shaw*
- VII. Adjourn

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CCBHC

**Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
VACSB Board of Directors
VACSB Membership Business Meeting
October 9, 2026 Room: Crystal Ballroom**

AGENDA

- I. Call to order/Welcome – Gib Sloan
 - A. VACSB Board Members Roll Call – Bernetta Watkins
 - B. VACSB Membership Roll Call- Bernetta Watkins
- II. Approval of Outcomes:
 - A. Board of Directors Meeting: 22 JUL 2026, previously distributed
 - B. Membership Business Meeting: 08 MAY 2026, 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 – Bernetta Watkins
 - F. Treasurer – VACANT
- V. Action Items
 - A. Election of Treasurer
 - B. Board of Directors- VACSB FY26 Financial Audit & Form 990
 - C. Board of Directors- VACSB 2027-2028 Draft Budget Priorities
 - D. VACSB Membership- VACSB 2027-2028 Draft Budget Priorities
 - E. VACSB Membership Clearinghouse Committee authorization for 2027 General Assembly
 - F. VACSB Membership: Board Recommended Proposed VACSB FY28 Budget
- VI. Council Reports
 - A. Children & Family Services –Paulette Skapars/ Whitney Girten
 - B. Developmental Services Council – La Voyce Reid/Natacha Dolson
 - C. Emergency Services Council –Andrea Hess/Cheryl St. John
 - D. Behavioral Health Council – Michele Ebirght/Kheia Hilton
 - E. Prevention Services Council –Michelle Wagaman/Regina Clark
 - F. Finance Directors Council – Danielle Sayre
 - G. Human Resources Directors Council – Crystal Homer/Cindy Lewis
 - H. Quality Leadership Council – Melissa Constantine/Laura Davis
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Administrative Policy – Mark Chadwick/Ellen Harrison
 - B. Public Policy – Mary Cole/Greg Preston
 - C. Regulatory – Melissa Lucy/Heather Petrus
 - D. Service Development – Margaret Graham/MiMi Sedjat
 - E. Quality & Outcomes – Brandon Rodgers/Daphne Cunningham
 - F. Training & Development – Ingrid Barber/Kim Shaw
- VIII. Regional Reports
 - A. Region 1 – Melissa Lucy/James Sikkema/Stephanie Clark
 - B. Region 2 – Margaret Graham/Evan Jones/Voneka Bennett
 - C. Region 3 – Marck Chadwick/Brenda Ephriam/Jane Carlson
 - D. Region 4 – Kelly Fried/Helen Leonard/Bernetta Watkins
 - E. Region 5 – Michelle Bradstock/Brian L. Cuffie/Steven L. Francisci

- IX. VACSB Reports and New Business - *Jennifer Faison*
 - A. General Assembly Preparations
 - B. Unspent Balances
 - C. PSH/DAP Work Group
 - D. Crisis Services/MARCUS Alert
 - E. Continued Conversation on Re-regionalizing TDO Admissions
- X. DMAS Updates - *Jennifer Faison*
 - A. Medicaid Redesign
 - B. H.R.1 Impacts
- XI. Executive Director's Report - *Jennifer Faison*
- XII. Other Items/Announcements
- XIII. Future Meetings
 - A. 9 DEC 2026 VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
 - B. 20 JAN 2027 Richmond Marriott Downtown
- XIV. Adjourn

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting

May 8, 2026, 9:00 AM

Board of Directors Members in Attendance: Gib Sloan, Ellen Harrison, Stephanie Clark, Bernetta Watkins, Ingrid Barber, Rebecca Holmes, Greg Preston, Mary Cole, MiMi Sedjat, Margaret Graham, Mark Chadwick, Melissa Lucy, Melba Moore, Brandon Rodgers, James Sikkema, Evan Jones, Jane Carlson, Cristi Zedd, Helen Leonard, Nathan Woodard, Cathy Brown, Paulette Skapars, Shannon Clark, La Voyce Reid, Cheryl St. John, Andrea Hess, Danielle Sayre, Crystal Homer, Cindy Lewis, Michele Ebright, Laura Davis, Lisa Beitz, LeNelle, Mozell

Board of Directors Members Not in Attendance: Angelo Wider, Patrick Sowers, Barbara Barrett, Voneka Bennett, Brenda Ephriam, Darryl Pirok, Kelly Bulin, Michelle Wagaman, Melissa Constantine

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

CSB Membership Not in Attendance: Alexandria, Region Ten

- I. Call to Order/Welcome- Gib Sloan called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
 - A. Board of Directors Roll Call- Jennifer Faison called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
 - B. Membership Roll Call- Jennifer Faison called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.
- II. Approval of Outcomes- Gib Sloan
 - A. Board of Directors Meeting: March 11, 2026
 - **OUTCOME:** Upon motion and second the outcomes were approved unanimously, as previously distributed.
 - B. Membership Business Meeting: January 21, 2026
 - **OUTCOME:** Upon motion and second the outcomes were approved unanimously, as previously distributed.
- III. Additions to the Agenda- There were none.
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. Chair- Gib Sloan reported the following:
 - Gib showed his appreciation to the VACSB and Training and Development committee for putting together a successful conference. He highlighted that the sessions offered very valuable insights and thanked everyone involved.
 - B. Past Chair- Patrick Sowers
 - Not present to report.
 - C. 1st Vice Chair- Angelo Wider
 - Not present to report.
 - D. 2nd Vice Chair- Ellen Harrison reported the following from the previous day's Executive Forum:
 - DBHDS joined the meeting and the Commissioner discussed wanting to map out the client experience within the Crisis System of Care, in terms of looking at return on investment and what areas can begin to be optimized that currently haven't been worked on. This will present the opportunity to collaborate and fill gaps within the different pieces surrounding CRC, CSU, and Mobile Crisis. Small work groups have been formed that will review mapping out the system to ensure it is as efficient as possible. The overabundance of crisis providers in some areas was briefly discussed. It was highlighted that there are also providers in the ACT world

that are beginning to populate Virginia. A note was made to contact DBHDS if there are concerns about increasing numbers of providers that do not meet the needs of CSBs, so that they can be appropriately vetted.

- The Chief Deputy Commissioner also met with the group and discussed the work surrounding Behavioral Health Redesign in reference to how this will align with CCBHC. A reminder was given that both DMAS and DBHDS will have a large amount of legwork to do over the next year around Medicaid and some of the pieces that require clarification within the new federal regulations. A request was made for patience and understanding as processes may sometimes move forward without complete information always being provided.
- Heather Norton briefly discussed Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). A new Program Manager hire is being explored, which will help address the overage of unspent PSH funds, review funding restrictions, and support revisions that would make the funding more feasible for communities to better support housing for vulnerable populations.
- Nathan Miles discussed aspects of finance which will be further discussed during the Finance Director's Council report.

E. Secretary- Jennifer Faison reported the following on behalf of Stephanie Clark:

- A reminder was given that nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Gartlan Award until July 1st, 2026. 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- Bernetta Watkins reported the following:

- 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- Gib Sloan

A. Membership Endorsement of FY 26/27 Slate of Officers

B. Membership Endorsement of FY 26/27 CSB Board Member Regional Representatives

- Gib Sloan presented the nominations for FY26/27. 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 11th meeting.
- Gib Sloan moved that the FY 26/27 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 FY 26/27 Slate of Officers was approved.

- Gib Sloan moved that the CSB board member regional representatives to serve on the VACSB Board for FY26/27, previously endorsed by the board of directors, be endorsed by the membership, for approval. This motion does not need to be seconded. Gib motioned for approval.

OUTCOME: Endorsement of the FY 26/27 CSB Board Member Regional Representatives was approved.

VI. Council Reports

A. Child and Family Services Council – Cathy Brown reported the following on behalf of the council:

- DMAS met with the council to discuss the details of Reentry Case Management and how this will be rolled out.
- DBHDS also met with the council and announced a series of training opportunities that are coming out.
- Council members were asked to identify budget priorities for the council and share that information with the council chairs.

- An announcement was made that Paulette Skapars with RBHA will be chair, Whitney Gerten with Danville-Pittsylvania will be co-chair, and Beverly Smith with Hampton-Newport News will be secretary, of the Child and Family Council for FY 26/27.
- B. Developmental Services Council – Shannon Clark and LaVoyce Reid reported the following on behalf of the council:
- Part C Services- There are no expected changes regarding allocation amounts as this is flat funded. There are 12 localities scheduled for monitoring with POSM, notices were previously sent out as this is scheduled to start on July 1st. Data system reporting responsibilities were discussed and how the new functionalities are expected to come into play in December 2026. The team will train on new reporting tools and provide any support needed within the TRAC system.
 - DBHDS updates:
 - The Onsite Visit Tool statewide training will be held virtually on June 19th at 10AM. The Onsite Visit Tool was updated and therefore the CRAT was integrated into this.
 - HSAG was discussed.
 - There was discussion on new staff changes. Emily Eagle replaced Maureen Kennedy in the SIS manager position and overseeing this process. Two additional staff have also joined in addition to Emily. A reminder was given that as long as there are two qualified respondents, they will move forward and there will not be any more rescheduling as this has been constant in the past. The importance of completing SIS forms was emphasized as there is backlog.
 - The Waiver System Service Authorization Unit provided discussion on Appendix D which will be released for public comment. This is a formality in reference to complying with the federal rule of authorizations of service. A request may only be placed in pending status one time, reduced from the previous limit of two. Additionally, the timeframe has been reduced from 10 business days to seven calendar days for an authorization. It will be imperative that authorizations are put in correctly and timely.
 - Slots will be released and assigned through approximately mid- August of this year. After 150 days, slots should be released. Waitlist reviews will be twice a year moving forward.
 - Updates were provided on Multi-Agency Review Team (MART) and Expanded Consultation and Technical Assistance (ECTA). MART is a repository for non-PHI documentation, which helps when there are multiple licensing and other types of audits and reviews, documents can be uploaded into a single repository as opposed to providing different documentation across the board. Conversations have started regarding rolling this out to the behavioral health side of DBHDS as well as private providers. This also includes a master scheduler, which will be updated and released in January 2027. A new repository is being built, and the plan is for this to be able to process both PHI and non-PHI documentation. The MART Ticketing System is now available on the DBHDS website for technical assistance. 648 providers met ECTA criteria in 2025, exceeding 86%, noting positive progress. As of 2026, present day, eighty-one providers have met the ECTA criteria. When there are two consecutive reviews where providers are not meeting criteria in certain areas, they are invited to participate in ECTA for technical assistance. The focus primarily has been on code regulations: 450, 520, and 620.
 - DMAS Updates:
 - Updates were provided by the Director of High Support Needs with DMAS.

- DMAS is working on updating provider manuals which will include items that have already been communicated and enforced but are not currently accounted for in the DMAS manual. This will be open for public comment prior to July 1st.
 - Discussion was held regarding the Medical Assistance Access Rule, specifically the development of a grievance portal for individuals, families, and caregivers with concerns related to rights under HCBS setting requirements. Concerns unrelated to HCBS should continue to follow existing procedures. This is expected to go live by July 1st. However, CMS will not enforce this until this time next year. A training and user guide is being worked on that will be available soon.
 - Changes to the DMAS website are being made to increase transparency around data, waitlists and other reporting aspects.
 - LaVoyce Reid and Natasha Dawson will be the chair and co-chair of the Developmental Services Council for FY 26/27. Autumn Richardson will be the secretary of the council.
 - The next council meeting will be held virtually August 17th.
- C. Emergency Services Council – Cheryl St. John reported the following on behalf of the council:
- DBHDS Updates
 - Information was provided on an ongoing pilot project taking place from April-July of this year. This pilot focuses on emergency evaluations and improving the collection and tracking of evaluation data. In terms of redefining evaluation categories so they better align with crisis evaluation volumes rather than only reflecting “true” TDO numbers. As emergency services conduct multiple types of crisis evaluations, the original crisis assessment and pre-screening tool developed was for additional purposes beyond ECOs and TDOs. The current pilot aims to better define and separate these evaluation categories for more accurate reporting and analysis. Ten CSBs (two from each region) are participating in the pilot from April through June. Participating CSBs are submitting data on evaluations conducted specifically by certified pre-screeners only.
 - Reports were provided regarding the census for state and commonwealth facilities, which are over capacity by 104% and other adult state hospitals are around 99%. Solutions are being explored in terms of whether additional hospitals or alternative facilities may be able to accept individuals.
 - There was discussion on the upcoming EDW data extraction process beginning in July, which will pull information from systems, particularly within emergency services. Some emergency services managers were previously unaware of the initiative, and a follow-up with IT departments and executive leadership will take place to gather additional details regarding reporting requirements and system expectations. Data will continue to be reported through existing Excel-based processes sent to regional managers. There is interest in comparing EDW-extracted data to current reported figures to assess consistency and accuracy.
 - Over the past year, there has been an increase in medically acute individuals under ECOs and hospital referrals who may meet civil commitment criteria but also present with significant medical complexities which delay or prevent transfer to hospitals. The Medical Complexity group is reviewing ways to collaborate with emergency department staff to improve communication and understanding regarding medical clearance requirements and psychiatric evaluation needs. Efforts are also focused on improving referral processes and identifying additional supports for individuals who remain hospitalized while awaiting medical stabilization or further psychiatric assessment. The group continues to review assessment and evaluation trends to better understand the rise in medically acute cases and determine

whether the increase is related to unmet medical needs, higher patient acuity, or broader systemic changes. The Medical Evaluation group meets bi-weekly.

- A group has been put together to review the Mandatory Outpatient Treatment (MOT) process in Virginia regarding how current practices differ from those in other states and the different approaches that can be made to better align with such. This includes earlier interventions before individuals get to the MOT level. There was acknowledgement of challenges with the effectiveness and enforceability of MOT orders, and it was noted that an increase of individuals in the area have recently been placed under MOT.
- The upcoming ILPPP trainings for certified pre-admission screening clinicians were discussed. Trainings are being offered throughout the state and scheduled through the fall. It was noted for individuals to identify and register for the training location closest to their CSB. The trainings are beneficial for both new pre-screeners and for experienced staff seeking a refresher. Consideration is also being given to expanding the training schedule by adding additional sessions based on need.
- It was highlighted that Alternative Transportation is working well. In March, there were over five thousand hours of custody completed by Steadfast combined with Valley Health which accumulated six thousand hours. The average custody duration was approximately 20 hours, resulting in meaningful relief for local law enforcement through reduced transport responsibilities. Steadfast is expanding into Region 1, including Lynchburg and Charlottesville, with further rollout planned for Rockbridge and Allegheny Highlands by late August. Beginning July 1st, updates will align the alternative transportation code with the juvenile code and clarify contractor responsibilities related to custody and transport.
- There were updates on BHL which included the upcoming CSU bed inventory system, set to go live on May 18th and will be fully integrated, allowing facility users to directly update bed inventory without requiring intervention from higher-level administration. Training resources are currently in development. Weekly Thursday morning meetings remain in place to address BHL updates, issues, and operational challenges.
- Discussion emphasized the importance of emergency services managers and council members becoming more familiar with IT systems and strengthening collaboration with IT staff, particularly in relation to EDW and expanding reporting requirements.
- Pending legislative changes relevant to emergency services was discussed, including the Emergency Services Response Order (ESRO).
- Regional emergency services managers participate in the PRMC (Pre-Placement and Medical Review Committee), where they can connect with emergency room physicians to discuss ongoing challenges such as transportation, medical acuity, and placement. Since this committee started there have been improvements made.
- Regional Updates:
 - Region 1 is celebrating the opening and ribbon cutting of a new CRC/CSU, along with positive feedback on the rollout of alternative transportation services.
 - Region 2 shared updates on the upcoming Emergency Services conference scheduled for June 23rd–24th at the Fairfax Marriott, as well as the planned late-summer opening of the Loudoun CRC, which will include 16 recliners and 10 adult-only beds.
 - Region 3 work is underway on drafting protocols and documentation related to transfers of commitment custody between private facilities, as well as input on MOT, alternative transportation, restoration, and related barriers, with plans to share this information with the ES Council.
 - Region 5 continues to report transportation as the primary challenge, with anticipation of the expanded rollout of Steadfast alternative transportation services.

- Virginia State Police with the Behavioral Threat Assessment Team (BTAM) met with the council to explain their role and participation with emergency services and CSBs and that they will be attending regional ES manager meetings. It was noted that BTAM's primary point of contact for needs or coordination is through DBHDS, though continued collaboration with emergency services/CSBs is anticipated. The vital role that BTAM plays in emergency services was highlighted as there are increasing concerns with individuals in the community in crisis or with behavioral health needs that may require earlier intervention prior to CSB involvement.
 - There was discussion on the Emergency Substantial Risk Orders (ESROs), similar to red flag firearm risk protection orders, with anticipated expansion beginning in July. The conversation focused on potential implications for emergency services involvement and the need for further clarification on roles and responsibilities. It was noted that ESRO petitions may be initiated by clinicians or citizens, additional discussion will take place as the implementation details become clearer.
 - The council will meet again virtually on June 4th.
- D. Behavioral Health Council – Lenelle Mozell and Michele Ebright reported the following on behalf of the council:
- The Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Councils have officially combined into one council under the new name "Behavioral Health Council", Michele Ebright and Kia Hilton will be the chairs of the council starting July 1st.
 - ASAM 4 was discussed and will be coming out soon. This will need to be completed by July 1st, 2027, as opposed to July 2026 which was previously announced as the due date. DBHDS is awaiting finalization of DMAS regulations before resuming additional ASAM 4 training. The intent is to be more efficient and to avoid the need to retain individuals due to the lapse in between training and the rollout. There are also plans to provide refresher or retraining opportunities for individuals who completed the initial training, given the time elapsed from the original sessions.
 - SOAR was discussed and a pre-application meeting will be held on May 18th for treatment and recovery, and on May 20th for prevention. Proposals are due by June 22nd. It was noted that there are two separate applications for treatment and recovery, and prevention.
 - DBHDS is expanding their reach to faith-based and collegiate organizations. It was noted that with this being a greater reach, CSBs must include a sustainability plan in their grant application as the same amount of money now has to be spread across a larger number of organizations, which could result in receiving less money than in the past.
 - REVIVE trainer and Master trainer rosters are being updated to confirm active participants, as some listed individuals may no longer be in those roles. DBHDS is requesting current trainer lists and will follow up with updated information and future training opportunities once the roster is verified.
 - Bed funds related to recovery homes follow a new process where recovery residences must now be certified by the state. Additionally, instead of funding going directly to facilities, funds will now be allocated to individuals and follow them if they move between approved recovery residences. The benefit period is 30 days with a possible 15-day extension. All funding requests must be submitted to DBHDS by that individual's name.
 - The problem gambling pilot is currently taking place with two CSBs. Administration of screenings is initially being done and in 12-18 months, the quality of data will be assessed with hopes of expanding to all CSBs.
 - Upcoming screenings for individuals providing direct substance use disorder services will be held September 17th-18th and training for prescribers will occur on June 25th.

- In addition to peer-led recovery stays, peer wellness homes are now being implemented, which will be approximately up to 14 days similar to a CSU. This initiative is intended to relieve some of the pressure from the crisis system. Regions 2, 3 and 5 have opened programs with expected expansions.
- The Office of Recovery Services is working to resolve the problem with the Omni Portal regarding being able to input information into the system. They are also seeking workshop presenters for the Peer Conferences in August, the application is due by May 15th. Scholarships are available for peers who are located 75 miles away from the conference site, the deadline for this application is May 31st.
- Workshops are being developed to help CSBs prepare for peer service billing requirements, with a meeting scheduled for June 22nd from 1–4PM. Ongoing challenges were highlighted related to peer billing and meeting DMAS requirements. Additional initiatives include upcoming eCPR training, the development of a master trainer program, and new training opportunities focused on helping peers support clients with employment goals.
- ACT Fidelity site visits are being wrapped up.
- In regard to STEP-VA, it is requested to use the STEP-VA email address for any contact needs as this is checked diligently and is the primary, preferred method of communication.
- The ISERV go live date is July 2027, technical assistance for this process is available.
- The adult version of WHODAS is available in Spanish. However, the child version is not. As a result, assistance with translation services and other resources are being offered to CSBs.
- There are concerns surrounding the SOAR quarterly reports in terms of request for extensive financial information related to funding sources and revenue amounts beyond the scope of SOAR grant reporting. Several CSBs expressed concern that the requests may represent unnecessary overreach and questioned the purpose of collecting the information, especially given that other funding sources are already restricted for specific uses. It was shared that upon reaching out, one CSB was informed this section was not mandatory to complete, however this information was not shared to other CSBs. Concerns remain regarding the lack of clarity about how the information will be used and whether disclosure of additional financial details is necessary.
- Committee Reports:
 - The Public Policy committee will be reaching out to contact leadership for information regarding next year's budget priorities.
 - The Regulatory Committee is developing detailed responses to the latest CPSC regulations. The issue of unspent balances was also addressed with agreement reached to allow retention of up to 25% of both restricted and unrestricted state funds, while placing no restrictions on unspent balances from other funding sources as long as the funds are used for mental health, substance use, or ID/DD services. Discussions also took place surrounding unions using FOIA requests to gain access to employee contact information, which has brought concerns from some CSBs.
 - The Peer sub-committee has made updates to their website and discussed new peer ethics regulations, along with related training opportunities. Priorities for the upcoming year include assisting CSBs with developing peer billing practices in implementing Town Hall Act 6891, which would allow individuals designated as PRSTs to bill prior to completing the required 500 certification hours, similar to the QMHPT model. Concerns were raised regarding potential conflicts with existing DMAS regulations, which currently require peers to be registered and fully certified before billing can occur.

E. Prevention Services Council – No report.

F. Finance Directors Council – Danielle Sayre reported the following on behalf of the council:

- The council discussed the following during their meeting: AR submissions, unspent balances, indirect cost rates, MCO billing issues, MARCUS Alert, budget limitations moving forward, workforce development funding, WebGrants, budget line limitations, and regional funds reflected in the performance contract reports.
- DBHDS provided discussion on unspent funds. There was a 360-million-dollar balance of unspent funds reported. It was noted that the biggest drivers of this are in the regional arena specifically related to PSH and crisis funding, mostly related to the regional funds. An implementation guide will be distributed to the CFO group in the coming week for review. It was clarified that only state-restricted funds will be subject to the current pause and potential claw back provisions. Exemption requests must be submitted to the OMS Office through Shay Neil Jones, separate from the Finance Office process. It was also confirmed that capital expenditures will be exempt from the pause. The process is still in the design phase, and operational details regarding implementation and procedures have not yet been finalized.
- Challenges were brought up regarding regional funds being allocated to CSBs that are not regional holders and possible inconsistencies in how funds are classified as regional or non-regional by DBHDS. CFOs were asked to submit affected cases to their regional representatives within two weeks for consolidation and review by DBHDS. DBHDS will then work with impacted CSBs to update performance contract report templates before year-end and address issues affecting local match requirements and unspent funds procedures.
- In regard to AR quarterly submission, it was mentioned that VACSB has copies of the first and second quarter AR submission in a consolidated document in a portal. It was noted that DBHDS is not doing anything with these submissions for the first year. When questioned on the intent of the September 2026 submissions, no clarification was provided on the use of this information, raising concerns about providing data without a defined purpose or intended outcome. There is hope that the information on MCO delinquencies would be used by DMAS to hold MCOs accountable to their contractual obligations, although no formal guidance or response has been provided to date.
- Brief discussion took place on state warrants, regarding the twenty-four equal payments. There is no change for FY27 since this must be written into the performance contract. However, meetings will be held after FY27 starts in the case that DBHDS decides to make any changes for FY28.

G. Human Resources Directors Council – Crystal Homer reported the following on behalf of the council:

- There were roundtable discussions on workforce reporting, rising group health coverage renewal costs, and voluntary participation in a feasibility study exploring a potential group health coverage consortium, with additional information expected in the future. There was also discussion on QMHP resources and training, along with sharing best practices and other collaborative support strategies.
- Woods Rogers met with the council, and it was noted that there are many legal landscape changes occurring in Virginia on all fronts, but specifically in the employment realm as well. Highlighting the upcoming pay transparency law taking effect July 1st, which will prohibit employers from requesting prior wage or salary history and require salary or wage ranges to be included in job postings. While many organizations may already follow these practices, compliance will now be mandatory. Collective bargaining was also discussed in terms of potential next steps should developments occur on May 23rd. This includes the consideration of union avoidance training for boards and first-line supervisors through legal counsel to ensure appropriate communication guidance. Additionally, non-compete agreements are no longer able to be used for healthcare workers. However, this does allow for repayment related to licenses and other similar purposes. Discussion was held on the implementation of paid sick

leave requirements and proposed paid family and medical leave legislation, expected to take effect in 2027 and 2028. A follow-up call with legal counsel is anticipated at the end of May to provide updates on the governor's decisions, legislative developments, and potential organizational impacts.

H. Quality Leadership Council- Laura Davis reported the following on behalf of the council:

- There are concerns surrounding the ongoing increase in audits and inspections. As a result, the council will request discussion with the Office of Licensing and Human Rights, as has been done during prior administration transitions to address concerns about citation practices. Specific issues raised include the “piling on” of citations, where a single regulatory issue may result in multiple violations, and the practice of cascading citations between Human Rights and Licensing. These concerns will be addressed with the intent to advocate for a more collaborative, rather than adversarial, regulatory relationship, focused on shared service quality goals.
- There is continued collaboration and information-sharing taking place in response to the high volume of ongoing audits, noting that this support has been helpful. There will be the continued use of the listserv as well as the possibility of resuming regularly scheduled in-person meetings throughout the year to drive more discussion and engagement.
- HR1 was briefly discussed in reference to the anticipated changes to Medicaid, including work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews, such as six-month membership reassessments. The council has begun exploring ways to support staff in assisting individuals to maintain eligibility and meet new requirements, with recognition that these changes could have budgetary impacts that may ultimately affect service delivery.
- Discussion was held on 42 CFR Part 2. Updates and penalties went into effect in February. Additionally, HIPPA has made a new ruling that is still in the proposal phase currently, however, the actual rulemaking is expected to be issued anytime in the month of May. This will impact how CSBs operate around HIPPA, particularly around security safeguards. It was noted that IT, finance, procurement, and privacy staff should be aware of the increased focus on compliance and updates to business associate agreements. The importance of preparing for these changes and pursuing training and guidance to support a smooth transition once rulemaking is finalized was emphasized. CSBs would have approximately eight months to comply after official rulemaking.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Administrative Policy Committee- Mark Chadwick reported the following for the committee:

- IT security was highlighted as there has been discussion within the committee pertaining to limiting the scope of what those requirements are and ensuring that what is being communicated is also written in documentation. It was noted that the committee's primary role is to ensure that the language in contracts align with what is being said.
- The committee is also putting efforts into limiting the number of changes occurring as they have been communicating with DBHDS to attempt to help sequence some things as opposed to having everything be concurrent.
- Communication challenges with DBHDS were identified to be between programs, finance, and contract staff. CSBs were encouraged to remain attentive and inquisitive regarding information received, as they are often serving as a bridge between these areas. The importance of asking clarifying questions to support clearer understanding and coordination was emphasized.

B. Public Policy Committee: Greg Preston reported the following for the committee:

- The committee continues to meet monthly and last met on April 22nd. Discussion was held surrounding general assembly, state commission, and stakeholder updates.

- Special recognition was given to Brandy Williams for her work on the Behavioral Health Redesign Provider Survey. Additionally, Brandy Williams and Allison Stranding were shown appreciation for sharing information on the ADA Web Accessibility Rule compliance timeline.
 - The committee continues to meet with the service council representatives for discussion on budget priorities.
 - Jennier Faison, Mary Cole, and Heather Orrock were given special recognition for their hard work in supporting the committee.
- C. Regulatory Committee: Melba Morre reported the following for the committee:
- Appreciate was shown to Brandy Williams, Heather Orrock and Jennifer Faison for their hard work and support.
 - The appreciation and value of those who participated in the public comment period was also highlighted. Encouragement was given to continue this engagement as public comment is a critical opportunity for stakeholders to have their voices heard in the regulatory process.
 - The committee's next meeting will be held on June 3rd at 9:30AM.
- D. Services Development Committee: No report.
- E. Quality and Outcomes Committee: Melissa Lucy Reported the following for the committee:
- Virginia Crisis Connect: DBHDS has hired a training coordinator to improve utilization, reporting accuracy, and provide targeted technical assistance. The current focus is on private hospitals and emergency services referrals before expanding to mobile crisis response services.
 - The HL7 expansion progress remains on track for the July 1st implementation deadline. Automated testing improvements now provide immediate pass/fail feedback to CSBs submitting test cases. Regular meetings and office hours continue to support implementation and troubleshoot issues. Initial proof of concept work is underway to sunset crisis data spreadsheets using the HL7 data exchange process.
 - IPRS Updates: CMS funding approval has accelerated project timelines. DBHDS and stakeholders are actively developing business and technical requirements. Collaboration continues with CSBs and private providers to ensure broad stakeholder engagement.
 - Data Mapping Work Group: The work group is temporarily paused while HL7 expansion activities continue. It will reconvene later to continue inventorying and streamlining spreadsheets, Microsoft forms, and other data platforms used by CSBs and DBHDS.
 - Surveys and SME Data Quality: A reminder was issued that new CSB data requests must go through the Survey and Data Request Committee. SME data quality efforts continue to review and update specifications to ensure measurements remain aligned with the new data exchange system and intended outcomes.
 - STEP-VA Updates: DBHDS is refining STEP-VA metrics to align with the HL7 data exchange and broader strategic goals. A standardized definition of the STEP-VA population is being developed and improved. Outcome measurements reduce clinician burden and support future CCBHC aligned metrics. The committee approved advancing the proposal to the DMC with a July 1st targeted implementation date.
 - Quarterly DD Updates: Upcoming discussions with the HR vendors will address planned ISP change, requests, and adjustments to WAMs. Related modifications and additional details will follow after vendor meetings.
 - Measurement Development Updates: DBHDS is working to address issues caused by the transition from CCS 3 hourly service reporting to EDW service unit reporting, particularly impacting SAMHSA adult and child MH engagement measures. A temporary solution is proposed through FY27, pending SAMHSA approval. Planning has begun for FY28 adult and child mental health block grant measures, including potential use of existing measures, such as

WHODAS outcomes and SDA measures. Additional discussion focused on PSH referrals to program admission and access to PSH and related outcome measures, including opportunities to house PSH data within the EDW to reduce duplicate reporting. Further discussion will continue at the May meeting.

F. Training and Development Committee: Melissa Lucy reported the following for the committee:

- Special recognition was given to the VACSB staff and Training and Development committee for their hard for in putting together a successful conference. It was noted that several compliments were made by attendees on the quality of presenters and sessions that were provided.

VIII. Regional Reports

A. Region 1 – Mellisa Lucy reported the following for the region:

- The region is holding their first Regional Peer Recovery Specialist conference this spring.
- A collective proposal is currently in the works for using unspent one-time funds to address infrastructure development to serve people in crisis.
- Regional PSR is still in the discussion phase based on the DBHDS set timeline and order of operations. The region is hopeful of supporting proposals from CSBs over the next several months.
- The region's training calendar has been sent out with topics.

B. Region 2 – Deborah Warren reported the following for the region:

- The Northern Virginia Adolescent Treatment Center opened in mid-March, providing ASAM 3.5 substance use disorder residential treatment for adolescents. ASAM 3.7 medical withdrawal management and crisis stabilization services are expected to begin once licensing is approved. The opening was highlighted as a major milestone following several years of development to expand services for youth as there has been an increase in overdoses within adolescents.
- There has been continued development of CSUs and CRCs over the past five to six years, noting that demand remains very high with utilization around 87%. By the end of calendar year 2026, capacity is expected to include 58 adult crisis stabilization unit beds, 32 adult crisis receiving recliners, 32 youth crisis stabilization beds, and additional youth and adult recliners coming online over the next few years, pending licensing approvals. Data shared indicated that nearly 1,200 adults and 178 youth were served in crisis stabilization unit beds, primarily under TDOs, along with approximately 900 adults and 145 youth served in crisis receiving center recliners, with many cases diverted from hospital settings. It was also noted that about 18% of Region 2's TDOs are being served through these regional crisis centers, compared to 4.3% in state hospital settings due to limited availability.
- There has been a significant amount of investment in the region's PSH initiative, including \$7.8 million in development supporting 10 units in Fairfax County Housing and 5 units with the City of Alexandria Housing.
- Strong progress was highlighted in developing training through a regional training team, with 660 clinicians and community partners participating to date. It was noted that participation is expected to reach approximately 1,500 by the end of the fiscal year, supported by an upcoming two-day conference scheduled for early June.
- Several transitions have taken place within the region, executive positions are expected to be filled this year.
- Specific to Arlington, for the last nine years there has been partnership with VHC Health on the expansion of hospital beds. This effort has included ongoing input from a lived experience advisory group and completion of a Certificate of Public Need that supported a plan to approximately double behavioral health bed capacity in the area. The hospital has since proposed development of a new behavioral health hospital in Arlington, with the site plan

review process recently initiated and public engagement underway. The project is expected to add 96 behavioral health beds for adults and adolescents, covering both mental health and substance use treatment, as well as a separate 14-bed unit for medically complex behavioral health patients.

C. Region 3: Mark Chadwick reported the following for the region:

- The regional PSH plan has been approved by DBHDS. A special thank you was given to New River Valley for their support in helping this to happen.
- An upcoming Veterans and Military Family Summit is scheduled for May, with approximately 150 registrants to date, up from nearly 100 participants last year.
- Continued efforts are being made to strengthen data understanding and demonstrate positive system outcomes across the region.

D. Region 4: Cristi Zedd reported the following for the region:

- Crisis system updates- The region's contract with the 988 vendor, Hopelink, has been extended through 12/31/26. Hopelink will continue to provide both 988 and NSPL telephonic support services, as well as mobile crisis response team dispatch services during this time. A new RFP for 988 service continuation will be published in the coming months. The Region 4 office is currently recruiting for a marketing and communications strategist to support 988 and continue crisis continuum marketing and education with various audiences throughout the region.
- Region 4's executive leadership has identified its representation for the upcoming DBHDS coordinated problem-solving work groups.
- The Region 4 Training Consortium has announced the dates for its second regional training and development conference on September 22nd and 23rd. The theme is "Every Mind Matters: Building Inclusive Behavioral Health Systems".
- The regional jail team is in the final stages of an MOU execution with Riverside Regional Jail to implement the pilot, a jail-based alternatives to restoration project.
- Project staff are in the process of being onboarded at RBHA, and close collaboration with the DBHDS Office of Forensic Services is ongoing.
- LIPOS- Progress has been moving toward contract execution with HCA and Bond Secure Facilities. In the meantime, project administrations are being authorized, and regional utilization management continues.
- Regional Peer Recovery Initiative - PRS interns have been identified to participate in the fifth annual Peer Internship Academy, which will start July 26th. The regional team will be meeting with the Office of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery Supports at DBHDS to discuss opportunities to co-develop a statewide family support partner training curriculum.
- PSH - The regional office is currently developing a scope of work for an RFP to engage a housing consultant who will help guide the process of developing affordable housing units. Funds provided by DBHDS through the PSH capacity building funds will support this initiative.

E. Region 5: Nathan Woodard reported the following for the region:

- Special recognition was given to Commissioner Washington for visiting several CSBs in the region.
- Virginia Beach CSB is starting a new jail-based competency restoration unit in their jail. The capacity will be up to twenty individuals. Dr. Hudacek from DBHDS is being worked with on this initiative.
- In Hampton-Newport News, the BJ Roberts Behavioral Health Care Center was recognized by the Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate with an award for historic renovation. Additionally, the Hampton Newport News CSB Behavioral Health Docket graduation was held last week, which celebrated 31 graduates.

- The City of Portsmouth broke ground two weeks ago on a new Housing Resource Center. The facility is intended to provide housing options and access to services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including those who may have behavioral health needs.
- The City of Norfolk has expanded services in collaboration with local jails, including the opening of a new all-inclusive medical unit this week to serve both female and male populations. Additional support services are also being provided on-site, including medication-assisted treatment.

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

- A. Jennifer thanked the CSBs for their ongoing support and reflected positively on discussions at the State of the Commonwealth panel held on the previous day, expressing hope for stronger collaboration and communication with state agencies. The strong work being done across regions was highlighted; however, the ongoing burden of constant changes and expanding expectations was identified as a significant challenge to sustaining efficiency, particularly without adequate time to stabilize programs. Time to allow the system to stabilize and adjust is strongly advocated for amongst improved partnership to support a sustainable system.
- B. Unspent Balances - Increased reporting requirements will be a focus of the Administrative Policy Committee once the performance contract is finalized, with an effort to review and streamline reporting expectations. While acknowledging improvements in data systems such as the HL7 data exchange and the data warehouse, it was noted that the increased ease of access has led to additional reporting demands being layered on CSBs. There is a need to reduce the unnecessary expansion of reporting requirements. Reducing and stabilizing reporting obligations will be a priority in the coming year.
- C. Governor's Recommendations and Interim Studies
 - There are approximately 15 interim study work groups currently underway, largely resulting from General Assembly bills being carried over for further study rather than being discontinued. It is encouraged for CSBs to stay informed by reviewing updates from the Public Policy committee meetings, where progress on these studies is reported. Some of these efforts will involve work groups where subject matter experts will likely be asked to participate. Jennifer Faison will attend initial meetings to assess the level of substantive discussion and determine whether additional expert participation is needed.
 - It was highlighted that there currently is no budget due to unexpected challenges taking place with one of the budget negotiators. This could have a potential impact on the timeframe for when the final state budget will be received.
 - There are several significant HR-related decisions that will take place during the reconvening session for the governor to make decisions on May 23rd.
 - The two large bills focus on collective bargaining and cannabis. Once these bills are returned, there are limited options: sign them into law, allow them to become law without a signature, or veto them entirely, with vetoed legislation needing to be reintroduced in the next legislative cycle.
 - Priorities will focus on interim work on budget development and participation in work group meetings, as well as monitoring final decisions on the budget and remaining legislation taking place May 23rd. Updates will be sent out as provided.

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

XI. Other Items/Announcements – Nothing further to report.

XII. Future Meetings-

- A. VACSB Board of Directors: July 22, 2026, VACSB Conference Room & Zoom

XIII. Adjourn



VACSB 2026-2027 Calendar

Executive Directors Forums

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)
January 19, 2027	Richmond Marriott Downtown
March 9, 2027	VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
May 6, 2027	Norfolk Marriott Waterside
July 20, 2027	VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
October 7, 2027	Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
December 7, 2027	VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)

VACSB Board of Directors Meetings

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)
January 20, 2027	Richmond Marriott Downtown
March 10, 2027	VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
May 7, 2027	Norfolk Marriott Waterside
July 21, 2027	VACSB Conference Room (Zoom access available)
October 8, 2027	Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
December 8, 2027	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 7-9, 2026	◆	Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
January 19-20, 2027	◆	Richmond Marriott Downtown
May 5-7, 2027	◆	Norfolk Marriott Waterside
October 6-8, 2027	◆	Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center

DRAFT Virginia Association of Community Services Boards

Budget Priorities for the 2027 General Assembly Session

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC (CCBHC) RATE DEVELOPMENT: VACSB requests a language-only budget amendment that would direct DMAS to develop a prospective payment system (PPS) in concert with nationally recognized experts in PPS rate development. CCBHCs are Virginia's best response to the Medicaid changes resulting from H.R. 1 and many of the access, workforce, and service-delivery challenges addressed in the budget priorities below.

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION REINSTATEMENT: Community stabilization is a critical component of the crisis continuum. Restoring this service will help divert individuals from a behavioral health crisis, provide support following a crisis, and reduce the likelihood that they will require a higher level of care. VACSB supports restoring funding for community stabilization while implementing appropriate safeguards to address fraud and abuse concerns.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REDESIGN SERVICE PRESERVATION AND TRANSITION FUNDING: The proposed Behavioral Health Redesign creates significant risks to continued access to psychiatric rehabilitation, intensive in-home, and other critical community-based services. VACSB requests that DMAS retain the existing legacy services while introducing the new Redesign services, allowing providers to offer the service models they can sustain and that best meet the needs of the individuals they serve.

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE COORDINATION AND SUPPORT FOR NON-MEDICAID CHILDREN: VACSB requests that the Early Intervention targeted case management and service coordination rate be increased to at least the DD case management rate of \$242.73 per month. In addition, local Early Intervention systems are required to serve all eligible infants and toddlers, regardless of whether they are covered by Medicaid or another payer. VACSB requests sufficient and ongoing state funding to cover the cost of providing mandated Early Intervention services to eligible children who are not covered by Medicaid.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WAIVER SLOTS: Access to DD waiver services is critical for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Without continued investment, the progress made in reducing the waitlist will be lost. VACSB requests funding for additional DD waiver slots in FY28 to ensure that individuals with the most urgent needs can access essential services and supports.

MEDICAID EXPANSION REVENUE LOSS OFFSET: Changes affecting the Medicaid expansion population, including redeterminations and community engagement requirements, could cause coverage losses and reduce CSB reimbursement for services already being provided. VACSB supports state funding to offset revenue losses and careful implementation of exemptions for individuals who are medically fragile, have serious mental illness, are receiving substance use disorder treatment, or are in recovery.

PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES RATE: Peer recovery support services are a critical component of Virginia's behavioral health and substance use disorder systems, but the current individual reimbursement rate of \$14.30 per 15-minute unit does not reflect the full cost of providing the service. VACSB requests that the individual Peer Recovery Support Services reimbursement rate be increased to \$20 per 15-minute unit to support sustainable, high-quality peer services.

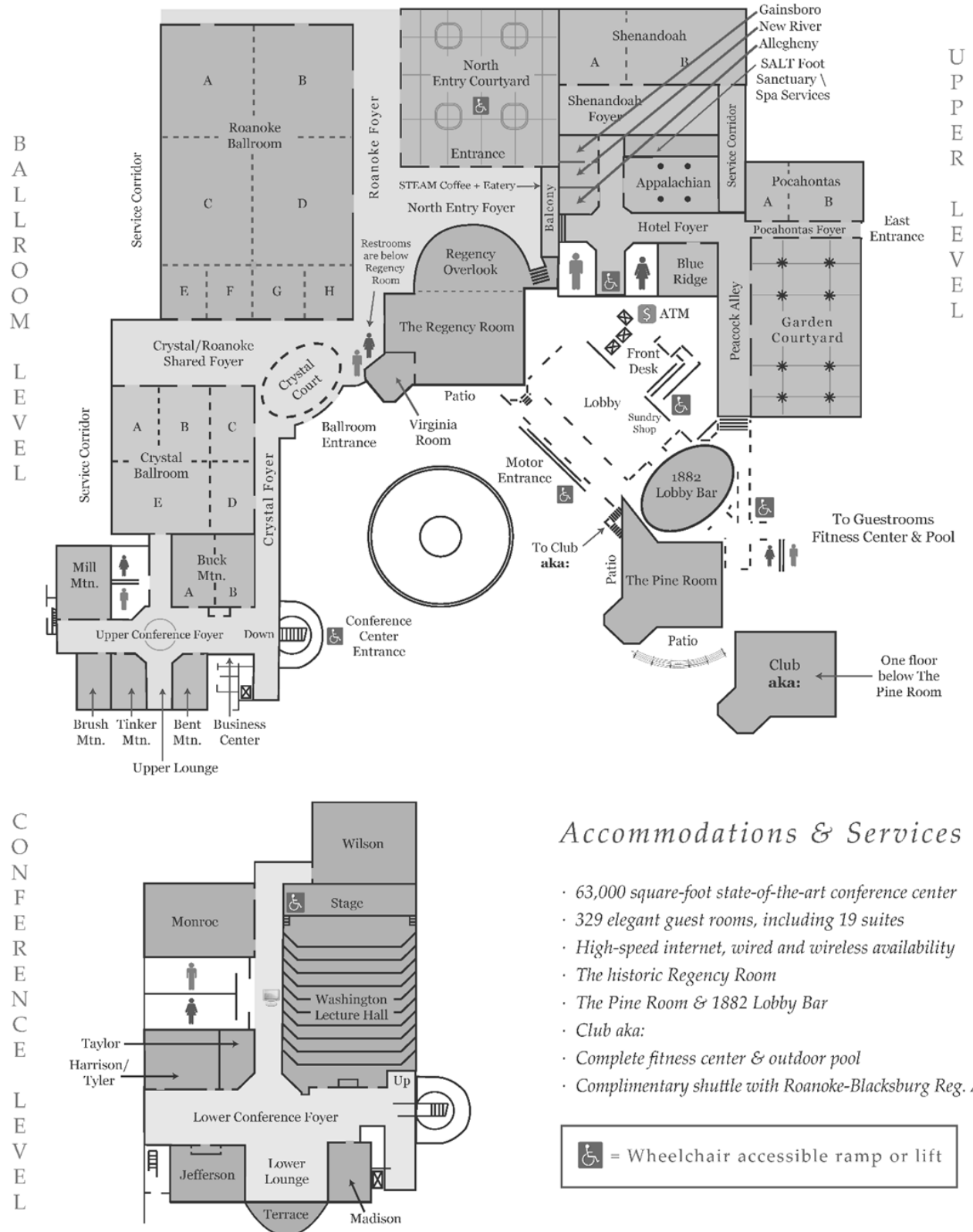
PREVENTION FUNDING: Prevention services are a critical part of the behavioral health continuum, helping communities address mental health and substance use concerns before individuals require more intensive and costly services. CSB prevention programs have expanded their partnerships with schools, law enforcement, and other community organizations, but the temporary federal pandemic funding that supported much of this work ended in March 2025. VACSB requests increased, flexible, and ongoing state general fund support to restore lost prevention capacity.

Hotel Roanoke Floor Plan



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