

# About the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

"A Life of Possibilities for All Virginians."



[Facebook.com/DBHDS](https://www.facebook.com/DBHDS)



[@VirginiaDBHDS](https://twitter.com/VirginiaDBHDS)

DBHDS works to ensure behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services are available to all Virginians who need them in the most community-oriented, integrated setting possible.

## The Impact of COVID-19

- State mental health hospitals are balancing infection prevention and control; workforce shortages; and a continuously, dangerously high census.
- CSBs and other licensed providers are incurring additional costs associated with pivoting to digital services, PPE, and more while maintaining access to services.
- Simultaneously, DBHDS continues to work with providers to meet the goals of the DOJ Settlement Agreement in addition to STEP-VA, which have put significant pressure on the system.

## Strengthening the Behavioral Health and Developmental Services System

- To help alleviate census pressures, state facilities are working diligently to safely discharge patients back into the community. This is taking resources such as DAP dollars as well as willing community providers.
- One critical diversion effort we are working on is the STEP-VA crisis services step. These crisis services, in tandem with other jail diversion efforts, are also critical to reducing law enforcement involvement in behavioral health crises.
- Continued implementation of the other eight core STEP-VA services as well as implementation of Behavioral Health Enhancement rates are critical to strengthening Virginia's safety-net system and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.
- We also are seeing an increased need for behavioral health services as a result of the social isolation and economic uncertainty caused by COVID. Critical to meeting these needs and reducing inequities in access to care is a strong prevention programming, partnerships with schools and other community resources; substance use disorder treatment and recovery programs; and a strong behavioral health workforce and provider system.

## 2021 Session Priorities

### DBHDS Legislation

SB1304 Discharge Planning at State Hospitals  
*Allows state hospitals to develop an initial plan to discharge individuals CSBs to finalize the complete plan within 30 days to allow for more efficient safe discharges.*

HB2092 Background Checks for Contract Providers  
*Makes background check requirements consistent for contract staff providing direct care services with other employed direct care staff, promoting high-quality services throughout the system.*

### DBHDS Budget Items, New Funding

	FY 2021 GF	FY 2022 GF
Hospitals and Facilities	\$5,337,386	\$7,310,013
Discharge Planning		\$2,500,000
Dementia Care Pilots		\$3,547,000
STEP-VA		\$726,807
Marcus Alert	\$80,000	\$691,612
BHE		\$129,253
DD Services		\$288,449
IT Security		\$549,788
Technical Adjustments		-\$1,300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,557,386</b>	<b>\$14,582,922</b>
<b>Capital:</b> Debt authorization for CSH expansion		\$58,500,000

# DBHDS Agency Overview

DBHDS offers state-operated behavioral health and developmental disability inpatient services, partners with public and private community-based providers, and invests in evidenced-based programs to support Virginia's safety-net and strengthen the entire system of behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental services. DBHDS also negotiates a performance contract with each of Virginia's locally-operated 40 community services boards (CSBs) for the provision of services for nearly 220,000 Virginians with mental health or substance use disorders or with developmental disabilities.

## Areas of Work

### Community Services

- Works to transform and improve Virginia's behavioral health system by expanding access to quality services, strengthening accountability, and promoting consistent services throughout Virginia.
- Oversees the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program to provide services to 13,589 individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Works to address the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders.
- Develops, coordinates, and administers supportive housing resources.

### Facility Services

- Operates eight state mental health hospitals for adults and one state mental health hospital for children and adolescents – as well as the Hiram Davis Medical Center, providing medical services for individuals in DBHDS facilities.
- Operates one training center for people with intellectual disabilities. Use of training centers has declined, and more individuals are connected to care in their communities.
- Operates the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, providing rehabilitation services for sexually violent predators.
- Oversees Discharge Assistance Plan (DAP) funds for over 1,800 individuals.
- Coordinates jail diversion initiatives and mental health in jails, and manages the Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity population

### Other Key DBHDS Functions

- Licenses 1,176 providers in 8,133 locations to provide behavioral health services
- Addresses human rights complaints for individuals treated in DBHDS facilities or by licensed providers
- Conducts key quality improvement initiatives to lead system-level transformation

## Ongoing Priorities



Addressing the high census at state hospitals by working with public and private partners to curb admissions and increase discharges



Exiting in full compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice settlement agreement concerning Virginia's system for people with developmental disabilities.



Continuing investments to build out a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services throughout the Commonwealth including the implementation of System Transformation Excellence and Performance (STEP-VA) and Behavioral Health Enhancement.

**For more information:** Alex Harris • [Alexandra.harris@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:Alexandra.harris@dbhds.virginia.gov) • 804.432.6606

1220 BANK STREET • P.O. BOX 1797 • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-1797 PHONE: (804) 786-3921 • FAX: (804) 371-6638 •

WEB SITE: [WWW.DBHDS.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://WWW.DBHDS.VIRGINIA.GOV)  [Facebook.com/DBHDS](https://Facebook.com/DBHDS)  [@VirginiaDBHDS](https://@VirginiaDBHDS)