

## POLICY MANUAL

### State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

#### POLICY 1034 (SYS) 05-1 Partnership Agreement

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**Authority** Board Minutes Dated: September 7, 2005  
Effective Date: September 7, 2005  
Approved by Board Chair: s/B. Hunt Gunter

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**References** § 37.2-500, 37.2-508, 37.2-601, and 37.2-608 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended  
STATE BOARD POLICY 4018 (CSB) 86-9 Community Services Board  
Performance Contracts  
STATE BOARD POLICY 1036 (SYS) 05-3 Vision Statement  
*Envision the Possibilities: An Integrated Strategic Plan for Virginia's Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services System, 2005*  
Current Community Services Performance Contract

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**Background** Sections 37.2-500, 37.2-508, 37.2-601, and 37.2-608 of the Code of Virginia authorize the Department to fund community mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services through performance contracts that it negotiates with each community services board or the behavioral health authority, hereinafter referred to as CSBs.

STATE BOARD POLICY 4018 establishes the community services performance contract as the primary funding and accountability mechanism between the Department and CSBs. The Department has funded community services through these contracts since 1985.

When they negotiated the FY 2004 Community Services Performance Contract, the Department and CSB representatives added a new document to it, the Central Office, State Facility, and Community Services Board Partnership Agreement. This agreement describes the values, roles, and responsibilities of the three operational partners in the public services system: CSBs, state hospitals and training centers operated by the Department, and the Department's Central Office. This new document is incorporated into and made a part of the current community services performance contract by reference.

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**Background** (continued) STATE BOARD POLICY 1036 articulates a vision statement for guiding the development and operations of the public mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services system. In addition to the values contained in it, this vision statement includes the principles of inclusion, participation, and partnerships. This policy states that the vision, values, and principles in the vision statement shall be reflected in and implemented through all instructions, contracts, and documents issued, entered into, or distributed by the Department, state hospitals and training centers, or CSBs. This includes the community services performance contract.

The *Integrated Strategic Plan*, developed through a process involving hundreds of interested individuals, outlines a framework for transforming Virginia's publicly funded mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services system. This plan emphasizes the value of and need for partnerships.

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**Purpose** To maintain and support the collaborative partnership between CSBs and the Department and establish the Central Office, State Facility, and Community Services Board Partnership Agreement as the ongoing basis for this relationship, making the agreement a part of the current performance contract.

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**Policy** It is the policy of the Board that collaboration through partnerships is an essential part of the foundation of the public mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services system in Virginia.

It also is the policy of the Board that the Department, itself and on behalf of the state hospitals and training centers that it operates, and each CSB shall enter into a partnership agreement that shall be incorporated into the community services performance contract between the Department and that CSB. The partnership agreement shall reflect and incorporate the vision statement articulated in STATE BOARD POLICY 1036 and shall incorporate and reflect the values and principles in that statement.

Further, it is the policy of the Board that the partnership agreement shall recognize the unique and complementary roles and responsibilities of the Department and CSBs as the state and local authorities for the public mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services system and of CSBs as the single points of entry into the publicly funded system of individually focused and community-based services and supports for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders, intellectual disability, or co-occurring disorders. The agreement shall incorporate and reflect core values that are embraced by all of the partners and indicators reflecting those core values.

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**Policy**  
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The agreement also shall address accountability, involvement and participation of individuals receiving services and family members, communication, quality improvement, participation in reviews, consultation, and technical assistance, and any other areas agreed upon by the partners. The agreement may be revised whenever changes are needed. It shall be reviewed and renewed regularly by the partners.

Finally, it is the policy of the Board that the Department and CSBs shall evaluate the utility and effectiveness of the partnership agreement periodically. The Department shall report the results of these evaluations to the Board.

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