

## Talking Points

- The DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services works to ensure high quality behavioral healthcare for children ages 0 through 21 and their families. OCFS leads and supports statewide efforts to establish and strengthen a comprehensive system of care for children and families, and builds and participates in collaborative partnerships among family and child service providers across agencies and disciplines.
- OCFS oversees various initiatives, the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP), workforce development, school-based mental health funding, and prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance use disorders in children and adolescents.
- The work of OCFS is funded through state general funds, Part C/Early Intervention, and various block grants.

## Overview

The vision of the DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services is for children, adolescents, and young adults with behavioral health needs and their families in Virginia to be healthy, resilient, and thriving with access to a comprehensive integrated system of care that is community-based, trauma-responsive, family-driven, outcome-oriented, and culturally competent. The office works to ensure high quality behavioral healthcare by leading and supporting statewide efforts to establish and strengthen a comprehensive system of care for children and families and building and participating in collaborative partnerships among families and child service providers across agencies and disciplines.

### Major Policy Goals

- Improve access to a coordinated, consistent array of behavioral health services across the Commonwealth.
- Promote best practices in children's community-based behavioral health services.
- Seek funding initiatives that support a comprehensive service array.
- Support integration of behavioral health services in primary care and schools
- Take a leadership role in promoting the system of care philosophy, by modeling the principles, collaborating at an interagency level, and involving families and youth.
- Promote opportunities for behavioral health equity across the state in under-served areas and with groups that have historically experienced racism or oppression in treatment access.
- Promote the development of family support and education.

## Background

The services provided by the Office of Child & Family Services are funded through the following sources:

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Funded Grants**

- Screening Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Grant \$995,000 (through September 2026)
- Mental Health Block Grant - \$4 million for children
- Substance Use Block Grant - \$1 million for adolescents

*The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services supports individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life.*



# Behavioral Health Child and Family Services



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

*A life of possibilities for all Virginians*

- American Rescue Plan Act (Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grant)-\$11 million (through September 2025)
- Consolidated Appropriations Act (Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grant)-\$4 million (through March 2024)

## **FY 24 State General Fund Dollars & Community Services Board Funding**

- Mental Health Initiative Funding-\$53 million
- Mental Health Services in Juvenile Detention-\$2.3 million
- Child Psychiatry and Children's Crisis Response Services-\$12.6million
- Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) -\$10.7 million
- School-Based Mental Health-\$7.5 million

**Early Intervention/Part C** (supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth through age two who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development)

- Federal funding under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - \$8.7 million
- State general funds for early intervention/Part C - \$ 26.5 million
- Medicaid, private insurance and local funds-\$ 49.5 million

## Successes

- Created stronger processes within the office for federal sub-recipient monitoring of funds
- Implemented phase II of a new data system (TRAC-IT) for 40 local lead agencies in Part C/Early Intervention that will allow for enhanced performance metrics and meets federal reporting requirements
- Completed the first ever statewide needs assessment on adolescent substance use gaps, barriers and recommendations. Based on this needs assessment a strategic planning process has begun.
- Launched numerous workforce development activities to support the public mental health system in improving quality of care to consumers
- Successfully launched a new grant for screening and brief intervention of adolescence for substance use and co-occurring disorders in pediatric practices enhancing integrated care.
  - VA has screened over 11,229 youth in Northern Virginia and has referred over 536 youth for brief intervention services.
  - This has resulted in Virginia's program being looked at favorably by SAMHSA Expanding access to treatment services for adolescents in mental health settings due to workforce shortages in specialty providers
- Successfully expanding capacity across the system for school-based mental health
  - Completed a one-year school-based mental health pilot.
  - The school-based mental health pilot program was recently allocated 7.5 million dollars in the second year to continue expansion of services among school divisions. With this funding, we anticipate up the 12-school divisions will receive funding.

## Initiatives

### **Community-Based System Expansion**

- Providing subject matter expertise and technical assistance around STEP-VA implementation and children's services.

*The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services supports individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life.*



[dbhds.virginia.gov](http://dbhds.virginia.gov)

# Behavioral Health Child and Family Services



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health  
and Developmental Services

*A life of possibilities for all Virginians*

- Providing oversight and administration of \$10.7 million dollar contract to implement Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) statewide including establishing program outcome benchmarks with the vendor and state leadership on VMAP. Expanding the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) to individuals ages 0 to 5, and perinatal and post-partum maternal mental health. Expanding behavioral health training opportunities to Pediatric Providers and OBGYNS.
- Implementing a State Systemic Improvement Plan to increase the percent of infants and toddlers who substantially increase their rate of growth in the area of positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) by the time they exit early intervention
- Implementing school-based mental health funding through state and federal dollars, developing technical assistance, contract monitoring and data infrastructure to support outcomes of the initiative
  - Partnering with DOE to provide technical assistance for school-based mental health that will be available in three tiers across the Commonwealth
- Prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts for children and adolescents with substance use disorders:
  - SBIRT (federal grant from SAMHSA to implement screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment for early intervention of problematic substance use)
  - Completed a statewide needs assessment for adolescent substance use treatment gaps, barriers, and best practices
  - Resulted in identification of areas of focus for phase 2 strategic planning- Currently in phase two of the strategic planning process at state and regional levels as well as the creation of dashboards for data reporting
  - Providing funding, technical assistance and monitoring of program to evaluate outcomes for the Chesterfield Recovery High School for clinical staffing and peer positions
- Expansion of young adult peers in the public mental health system
- Regional startup funds for adolescent partial hospitalization, residential treatment and/or intensive outpatient
- Providing oversight and monitoring of state general funds appropriated for various services including detention center, mental health funding, child psychiatry and crisis funding
  - Providing fiscal, programmatic, and technical assistance to three children's crisis stabilization units and regularly provides subject matter expertise on children's crisis services with DMAS and stakeholders
- Expanding Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement certification for clinical and non-clinical level providers
- Providing funding and contract administration for the creation and sustainment of the VA Wraparound Implementation Center (VVIC) for training and coaching providers in using the evidence-based practice, High Fidelity Wraparound, which is a Children's Services Act (CSA) reimbursable service
- Core team member on the Governor's Safe and Sound Task Force

## Contact

Katharine Hunter, DBHDS, Director, Office of Child & Family Services

*The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services supports individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life.*



[dbhds.virginia.gov](http://dbhds.virginia.gov)

# Behavioral Health Child and Family Services



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health  
and Developmental Services

*A life of possibilities for all Virginians*

(804)

Katharine.Hunter@dbhds.virginia.gov

Josie Mace, DBHDS, Director, Legislative Affairs

(804)385-4306

Josie.Mace@dbhds.virginia.gov

*The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services supports individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life.*



[dbhds.virginia.gov](http://dbhds.virginia.gov)