



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Services

A life of possibilities for all Virginians

DBHDS 101

Overview

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) facilitates a complex system of community-based behavioral health care and services for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as operating nine behavioral health facilities, one training center, one medical center, and one behavioral rehabilitation center. DBHDS also licenses and contracts with Virginia's 40 locally run community services boards and licenses hundreds of private providers of community services.

In **FY 2024, 209,207** unduplicated people received public behavioral health or developmental disability services: **208,306** unduplicated people received CSB services and **5,770** unduplicated people received services in DBHDS facilities. Many people received services from both.

The Commonwealth is home to the oldest mental health hospital in the nation (Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg) and founded the first mental health hospital for people of color (Central State Hospital in Petersburg). Historically, services for behavioral health and developmental disabilities were delivered while separating individuals from society. Today, however, the goal is to deliver compassionate and person-centered services within the community whenever possible. The behavioral health and developmental disabilities system involves many different stakeholders working together with the common purpose of helping individuals receiving services, which adds to the complexity of bringing about meaningful change. The community-based, integrated system managed by DBHDS involves the entire continuum of care.

Virginia's system intersects with many different facets of the Commonwealth's vast and varied service delivery system: education, Department of Social Services, Medicaid, the criminal justice and courts systems, private hospitals and health systems, and providers, among others. Collaboration is key. Accomplishing beneficial system changes requires identifying service innovations and best practices across the system of care.

Although challenging, Virginia is poised to support and develop tangible and achievable means to close capacity gaps, with the goal that every individual will have access to the quality services they need, regardless of where they live. The passionate and dedicated workforce of DBHDS creates change by focusing on the overall system of care to advance our mission of supporting individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life.

Right Help, Right Now and the DBHDS Strategic Plan

Governor Youngkin created [*Right Help, Right Now*](#) to reform the current behavioral health system in Virginia and support individuals in crisis. The goal of *Right Help, Right Now* was to support Virginians before, during, and after a behavioral health crisis. The plan aimed to ensure that there would be same-day care delivered through mobile crisis units and crisis centers to reduce overcrowding at emergency departments. This also reduced strain on law enforcement who could instead better serve their communities and served to reduce the criminalization of mental health in Virginia.

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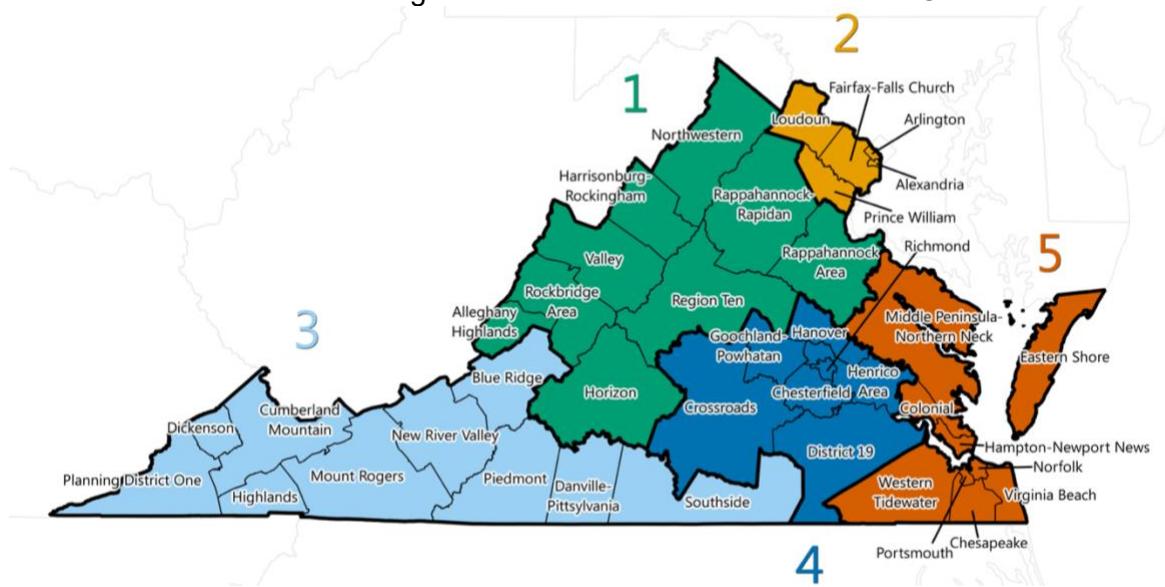
The *Right Help, Right Now* plan included resources for individuals with substance use disorders or who have high risks of overdosing. Virginians should have immediate access to all the resources they need anytime and anywhere.

DBHDS implemented the *Right Help, Right Now* plan while also modernizing its core systems and processes through the [DBHDS Strategic Plan](#). The plan consists of three pillars – workforce, continuum of care, and modernization.

Community Services

Virginia's 40 community services boards (CSBs) serve as the single point of entry into Virginia's publicly funded services for individuals with behavioral health and developmental disability needs. Patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis are initially evaluated and referred to the mental health facilities by CSB staff. Pre-admission screening services are provided by CSBs 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. CSB staff also make determinations regarding Medicaid waiver services for individuals with a developmental disability.

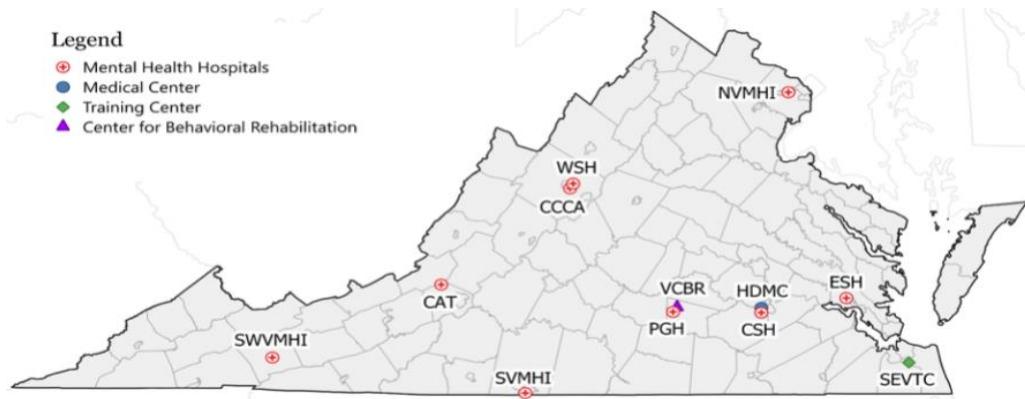
In addition to pre-admissions screening of individuals who may be put under a temporary detention order (TDO), CSBs offer a range of services to individuals with needs related to a developmental disability (ID/DD) or who are affected by a mental illness or substance use disorder. The 40 CSBs are located throughout Virginia. The map below shows the DBHDS five regions and the catchment area for each CSB.



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State Hospitals and Centers

DBHDS operates the following state hospitals and centers in the Commonwealth:



State Hospitals – DBHDS operates nine state hospitals for adults: Catawba Hospital (CH) in Salem, Central State Hospital (CSH) in Petersburg, the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) in Staunton, Eastern State Hospital (ESH) in Williamsburg, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI) in Falls Church, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH) in Burkeville, Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SVMHI) in Danville, Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI) in Marion, and Western State Hospital (WSH) in Staunton.

State Centers – DBHDS operates Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC) in Chesapeake, Hiram Davis Medical Center (HDMC) in Petersburg, and the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) in Burkeville for sexually violent predators.

Additional information about each of these facilities may be found at [the DBHDS Facilities section of the agency's website](#).

In the evolutionary movement towards a single, integrated system of care, increased emphasis has been placed on the establishment of community services and on the more effective and efficient use of state facilities. This emphasis has defined the role of state facilities as one of several resources in an overall continuum of care.

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