



# Education and Advocacy

## State Advocacy Contacts

### Commonwealth of Virginia - Executive Branch

Terry McAuliffe, Governor

William A. Hazel Jr., MD, Secretary of Health and Human Services

#### [Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services](#)

Debra Ferguson, Ph.D., Commissioner

#### Boards and Advisory Councils-

- [State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services](#)
- [Behavioral Health Advisory Council](#)
- [Substance Abuse Services Council](#)

#### Office of [Mental Health Services](#) (OMHS)

Jim Martinez, Director

Phone: 804-786-4837 Email: [jim.martinez@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:jim.martinez@dbhds.virginia.gov)

The OMHS manages many important initiatives and operational functions in support of the overall agency Mission and collaborates extensively with a wide variety of internal and external partners, including consumers, family members and advocates, community services boards, state facilities and other providers, state agencies, the legislature and others.

#### Office of [Community Contracting](#)

Paul Gilding, Director

Phone: 804-786-4982 Email: [paul.gilding@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:paul.gilding@dbhds.virginia.gov)

Community Contracting negotiates and administers performance contracts, authorizes funding of community services boards (CSBs), monitors the accomplishment of contract objectives and performance and outcome measures and compliance with contract assurances directly and in conjunction with other offices in the Department, analyzes and interprets CSB data, consults on CSB administrative and management issues, interprets policies and procedures, fosters mutual understanding and cooperation between CSBs and the Department, and works with advocacy organizations and stakeholders.

Office of [Legislative Affairs](#)

Will Frank, Director

Phone: 804-786-1332 Email: [will.frank@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:will.frank@dbhds.virginia.gov)

The Office of Legislative Affairs directs all legislative activities of the department and its facilities to garner support for the programs, services and operations of the department. Legislative guidance, consultation and training are provided on legislative policies and practices, and the office coordinates with the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources on evaluating legislation and recommendations for specific action. Outside of the General Assembly Session, the office plans and oversees the development of legislative proposals, and reviews all legislative reports to the General Assembly

## Virginia State Legislature

### **Joint Subcommittee Studying Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century**

A bill introduced by Senator R. Creigh Deeds and passed by both houses of the legislature in the 2014 session created a new [subcommittee](#) to study the delivery of mental health services, including laws governing the provision of mental health services and the system of emergency, short-term, forensic, and long-term mental health services in the Commonwealth. The subcommittee is made up of three workgroups:

- Continuum of Care Workgroup
- Crisis Intervention Workgroup
- Special Populations Workgroup

The subcommittee is tasked with presenting its Interim report by December 1, 2015, to the Governor and the General Assembly and its final report by December 1, 2017, to the Governor and 2018 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Members:

#### [House of Delegates-](#)

- Robert B. Bell, (R) Charlottesville, Vice Chair
- T. Scott Garrett, (R) Lynchburg, Member of House Appropriations Committee
- Peter F. Farrell, (R) Richmond
- Joseph R. Yost, (R) Pearisburg, Member, House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
- Margaret B. Ransone, (R) Kinsale, Member, House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
- Vivian E. Watts, (D) Annandale
- Luke E. Torian (D) Dumfries, Member of House Appropriations Committee

Senate-

- [R. Creigh Deeds](#), (D) Charlottesville, Chair
- [Janet D. Howell](#), (D) Reston, Member, Senate Finance Committee
- [Emmett W. Hanger Jr.](#), (R) Mount Solon, Member, Senate Finance Committee
- [George L. Barker](#), (D) Alexandria, Member, Senate Committee on Education and Health
- [John A. Cosgrove Jr.](#), (R) Chesapeake, Member, Senate Committee on Education and Health

## Virginia Senate

### Senate Committee on Education and Health

#### Subcommittee on Mental Health

##### Members:

- [Richard H. Black](#), (R) Leesburg, Chair
- [Thomas A. Garrett Jr.](#), (R) Hadensville
- [Richard L. Saslaw](#), (D) Springfield
- [Janet D. Howell](#), (D) Reston
- [Steven D. Newman](#), (R) Forest

## Virginia House of Delegates-

### House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions

##### Members:

- Robert D. Orrock Sr., (R) Chair
- John M. O'Bannon III, (R) Vice Chair
- Mamy E. BaCote, (D) Newport News
- Richard P. Bell, (R) Staunton
- Robert B. Bell, (R) Charlottesville
- James Edmunds II, (R) Halifax
- T. Scott Garrett, (R) Lynchburg
- Christopher T. Head, (R) Roanoke
- Gordon C. Helsel Jr, (R) Poquoson
- M. Keith Hodges, (R) Urbanna
- Patrick A. Hope, (D) Arlington
- Matthew James, (D) Portsmouth
- K. Robert Krupica Jr., (D) Alexandria
- Christopher K. Peace, (R) Mechanicsville
- Brenda L. Pogge, (R) Williamsburg
- Joseph E. Preston, (D) Petersburg
- Margaret B. Ransone, (R) Kinsale
- Roxann L. Robinson, (R) Chesterfield
- Mark D. Sickles, (D) Alexandria
- Lionell Spruill Sr., (D) Chesapeake
- Christopher P. Stolle, (R) Virginia Beach
- Joseph R. Yost, (R) Pearisburg