



Steady as We Grow and DBHDS Updates

Behavioral Health Commission
June 2, 2026

Daryl Washington, Commissioner
Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Services





Building thoughtfully and strengthening what is in place – Growth is intentional and disciplined, ensuring expansion strengthens existing capabilities.

Focusing on performance – Continuous improvement to elevate performance, ensuring reliability and accountability.

Moving from expansion to results – Prioritize measurable outcomes over scale.

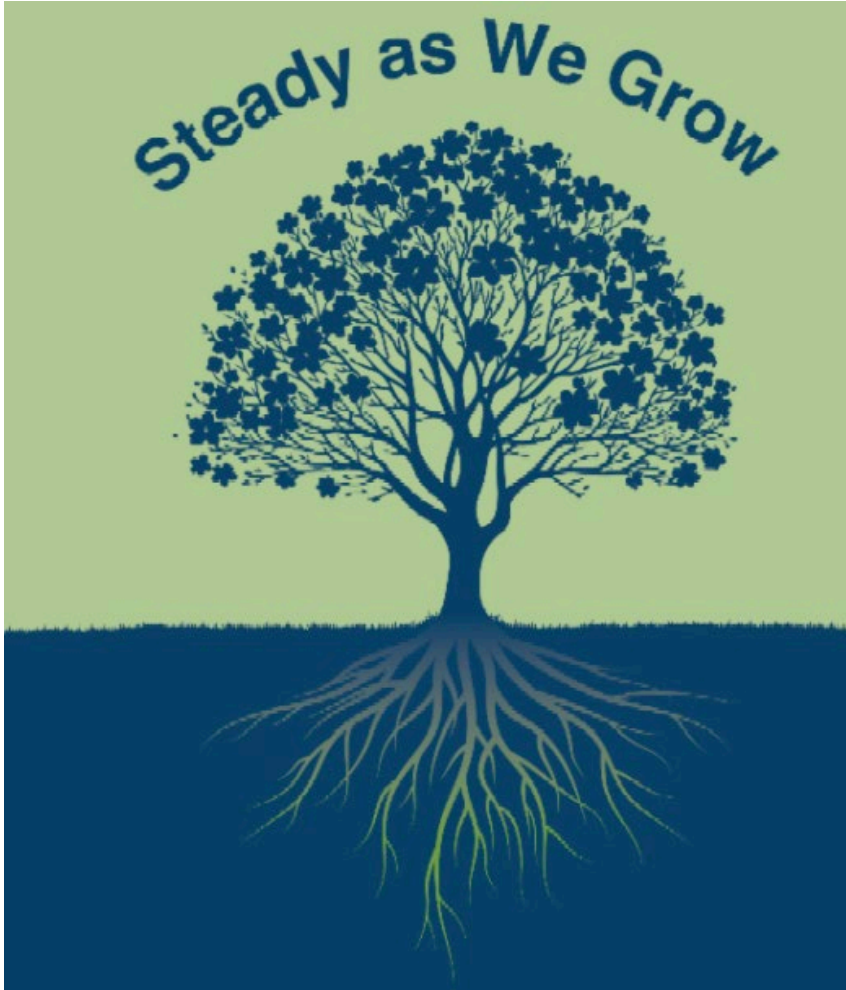
Ensuring what we've built is working – Ongoing evaluation to identify gaps and drive corrective action where needed.

Identifying policy to improve outcomes – Policy development targets barriers and enables more effective care delivery.

Strengthening operations – Reduce variability, improve efficiency, and ensure consistent services statewide.

Aligning resources to reduce barriers to care – Optimized resource allocation to ensure access.

Improving movement across the continuum – Streamlined care pathways to ensure people receive needed services, improving transitions and overall outcomes.



**Branch 1
Protect
What
Matters**

Protect the core services and functions of our health and human services system. Keep services stable and reliable by strengthening what works, identifying where improvements are needed, and be willing to change when necessary. Stability does not mean standing still.

**Branch 2
Be Steady &
Discerning**

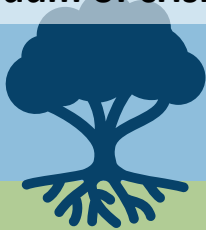
Be clear-eyed about the impact of significant federal policy and budgetary change. Understand how these shifts affect our work, minimize harm where possible, and take advantage of opportunities where they exist.

**Branch 3
Ensure
Government
Works**

Ensure our programs operate effectively, efficiently, and with accountability to the communities we serve. People encounter our system at critical moments; we must make those interactions simpler, more humane, and more effective.



Strengthening the full continuum of crisis care



Continued expansion services, creating off ramps to inpatient care, optimizing state hospital utilization, and shifting restoration for justice-involved people to jails as appropriate.

Improving system structure and function



Advancing system redesign efforts to improve how services are organized, coordinated, reimbursed, and delivered, reinforcing access to quality community services through STEP-VA, and ensuring provider integrity and licensure improvements.

Advancing consistency across state hospitals



Standardizing practices and expectations across state hospitals to ensure consistent quality of care and operational alignment.

Grounded in a strong and supported workforce

Investing in recruitment, retention, training, and support so that the workforce is equipped, stable, and empowered



988



- Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2026:
- 82,737 calls
- 12,738 chats
- 9,993 texts

Mobile Crisis



- Currently 113 teams
- Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2026:
 - 17,317 dispatches
 - 49-minute average response time

Crisis Centers



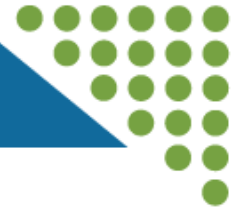
- 475 active CSB crisis center Crisis Stabilization Unit beds (CSU) and 23-hour observation Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) chairs
- Over 300 more are in development

Marcus Alert



- All 40 CSBs must implement Marcus Alert by July 1, 2028.
- 17 of 13 CSBs have implemented programs.
- If included in the budget, the GA funded all CSBs to implement Marcus.





Public safety, efficiency and growing statewide access

Custody and Transportation

Reducing Law Enforcement burden and ensuring better patient outcomes



32,875 Hours of Law Enforcement Time Saved = 15+ Full-time officers returned to community policing



845,716 Miles Avoided = lower costs and faster response



2,097 Virginians Served = Reduced hospital and jail diversion delays

Expanded to Region 1, starting in Lynchburg (Horizon CSB)

Virginia Crisis Connect

A statewide crisis infrastructure



Crisis Call Center



Mobile Crisis Dispatch



Bed Registry & Availability



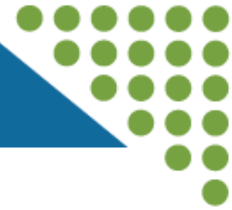
Provider Referrals



Real-Time Data & Reporting

Enhanced Capabilities Launched December 2023



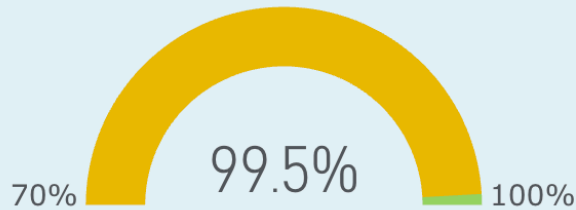


Waitlist as of Date Listed

Date	Civil Adults/ Geriatrics	Children	Forensic
5/26/2026	71	12	46

Legend	
CAT	Catawba Hospital
CCCA	Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents
CSH	Central State Hospital
ESH	Eastern State Hospital
NVMHI	Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute
PIED	Piedmont Geriatric Hospital
SVMHI	Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute
SWVMHI	Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute
WSH	Western State Hospital

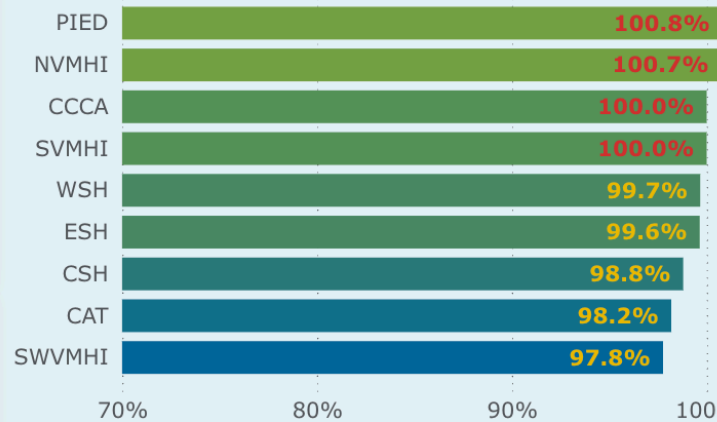
Adult/Geriatric State Hospital Occupancy Rate



Child State Hospital Occupancy Rate



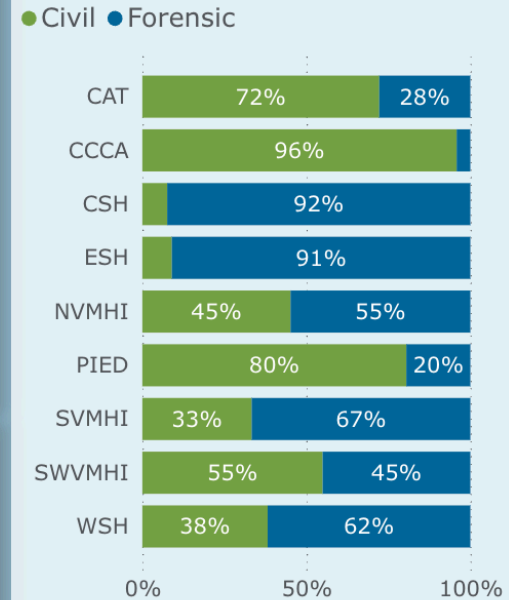
Overall Occupancy Rate by Hospital



Additional Max Security Occupancy Rate for CSH

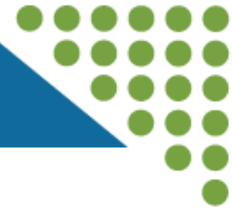


Legal Status of Current Patients by Hospital



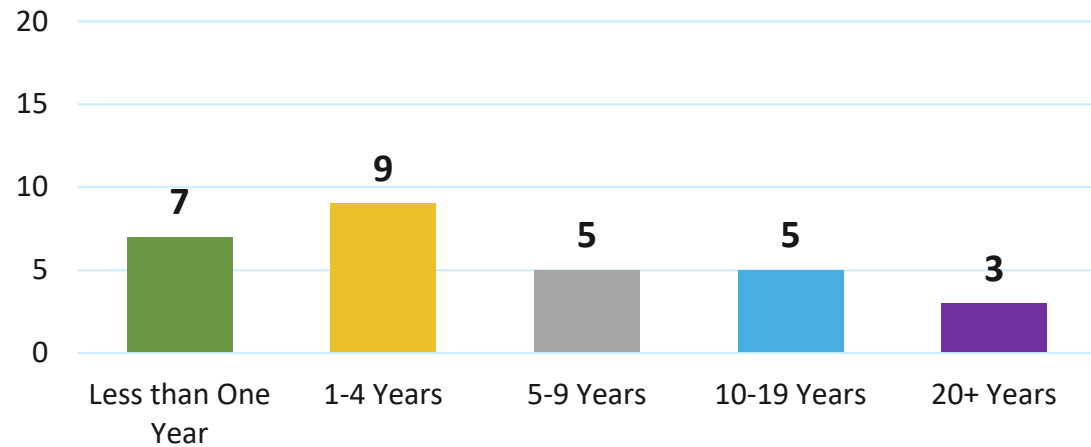
Updated at
9:00 AM
daily





Current Census	29
Current Occupancy	31%
Discharges currently planned	6
Patients who still need placements	23

Length of Stay



Diagnosis

