

## **Behavioral Health Commission- Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 - 12:30 p.m.

Western State Hospital - 103 Valley Center Dr, Staunton, VA 24401

### **Members Present**

Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Senator Lashrecse Aird

Senator Barbara Favola

Senator Russet Perry (virtual)

Delegate Ellen Campbell

Delegate Carrie Coyner (virtual)

Delegate Patrick Hope, (virtual)

Delegate Chris Obenshain

Delegate Vivian Watts

Delegate Rodney Willett

### **Members Absent**

Delegate Adele McClure

Senator Tara Durant

Call to order and opening remarks- Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Roll call- Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Nathalie Molliet-Ribet gave an overview of the meeting agenda and summarized findings related to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) from the 2003 JLARC report entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*. She also provided a timeline of actions taken in response to these findings since 2023 and answered members' questions.

Suzanne Mayo, Assistant Commissioner of Facility Services at DBHDS, began by providing an overview of the current census and utilization at state psychiatric facilities across Virginia and answered members' questions about these figures. She then summarized the findings from a DBHDS report that was requested by the General Assembly in response to JLARC's findings about CCCA. The report identified recommendations that could provide alternative treatment options for children and adolescents who would otherwise be placed at CCCA, including private inpatient stay, specialized treatment, community crisis services, and residential treatment. Ms. Mayo also spoke about recommendations for community-based services and foster care support. Finally, she summarized the focus of the current study conducted by Health Management Associates on CCCA.

Chairman Deeds inquired about the status of Hiram Davis Medical Center and Angela Harvell, Deputy Commissioner for Facility Services at DBHDS, provided an update on the work completed by the three subgroups and answered members' questions.

George Newsome, CEO at CCCA, provided an overview of admissions and spoke about changes made and their impact on the use of restraints at the facility. Mr. Newsome spoke about the difficulty of attracting and retaining staff at CCCA, and described efforts made to recruit as well as to train staff. Lastly, he answered members' questions.

Cindy McDaniel, Interim CEO at Western State Hospital, provided an overview of current projects at Western State Hospital, including increasing staffing, and lowering the use of restraints and seclusion. She concluded by answering members' questions.

A few individuals offered public comments.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Commission meeting will be on September 9, 2025.

Delegate Coyner participated virtually due to a medical appointment. Delegate Hope participated virtually due to a personal matter. Senator Perry participated virtually due to a trip out of state.