



# Commission meeting

July 8, 2025

Briefing



## In this presentation

### Studies on children's services and state hospital status

Overview of CCCA

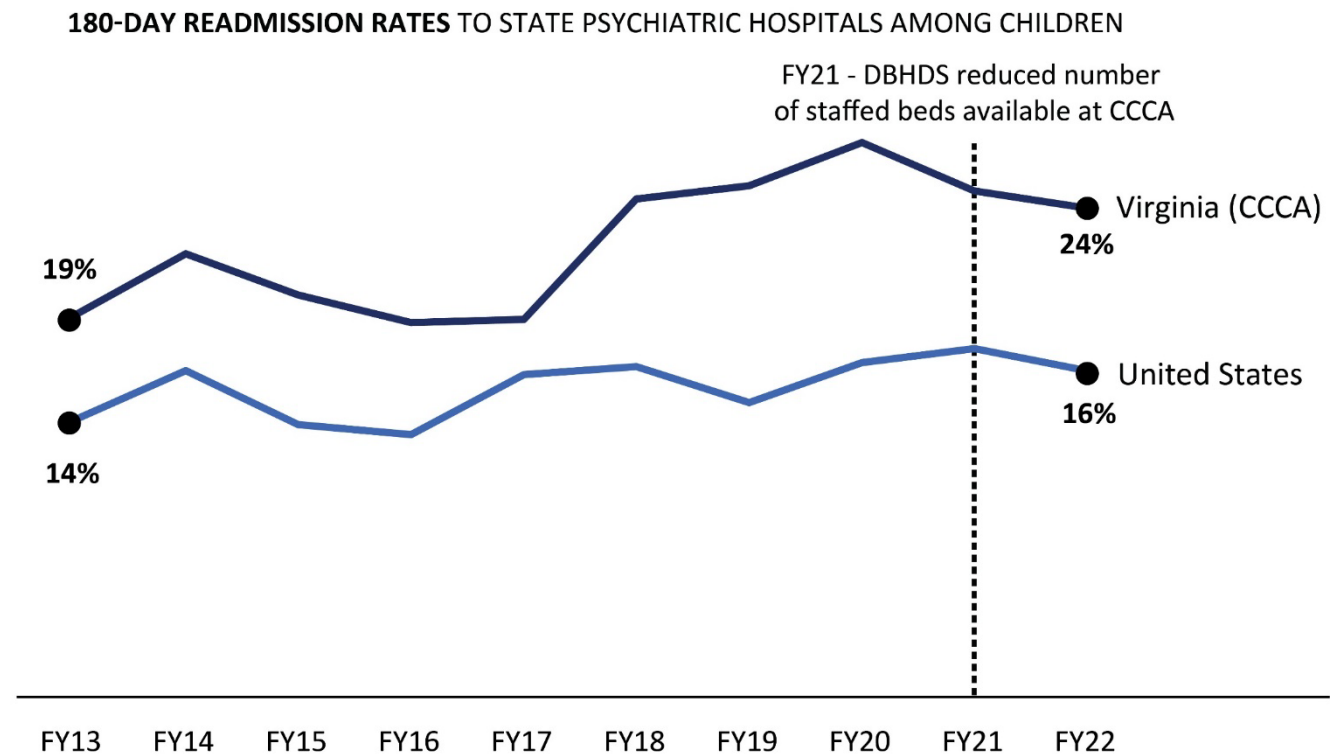
Overview of Western State Hospital

# Background on BHC involvement with CCCA

# BHC directed DBHDS to examine alternative placements to CCCA following operational and performance issues raised in 2023 JLARC study



# Readmission rates at CCCA were consistently higher than national rates through FY22



Source: JLARC presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission entitled *Virginia’s State Psychiatric Hospitals*, November 12, 2024  
Note: CCCA data is based on state fiscal year. United States data is based on federal fiscal year

## CCCA performed poorly on other key metrics relative to all other state hospitals

Metric	CCCA performance	CCCA performance relative to other 8 state hospitals
Patient-to-patient physical incident rate <sup>1</sup>	73.9 incidents per 1,000 patient bed days	Highest
Patient self-injurious behavior rate <sup>1</sup>	30.2 incidents per 1,000 patient bed days	Highest
Patient restraint rates <sup>1</sup>	17.1 hours per 1,000 patient hours	Highest (40 times the national rate <sup>4</sup> )
% of human rights complaints that were substantiated <sup>1</sup>	32%	Highest
Patient-to-staff physical incident rate <sup>1</sup>	99.2 incidents per 1,000 patient bed days	Highest
Average annual turnover <sup>2</sup>	88%	Highest
Vacancy rate (excl. temporary contractors) <sup>3</sup>	43%	Highest

Source: JLARC presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*, November 12, 2024

<sup>1</sup>Jan. 2022 to May 2023; <sup>2</sup>FY21 to FY23; <sup>3</sup>June 2023; <sup>4</sup>Compared with the Joint Commission's national benchmarks for use of restraint among children ages 13–17 at public & private inpatient psychiatric facilities

## Facility deficiencies may have exacerbated staffing and safety challenges

- Poor lines of sight that make it difficult for staff to monitor patient activities and safety
- Areas where staff and patients can become isolated
- Undersized spaces that present a risk to patients and staff if a patient becomes aggressive
- Many weaponizable building features and materials

Source: JLARC report entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*, December 11, 2023

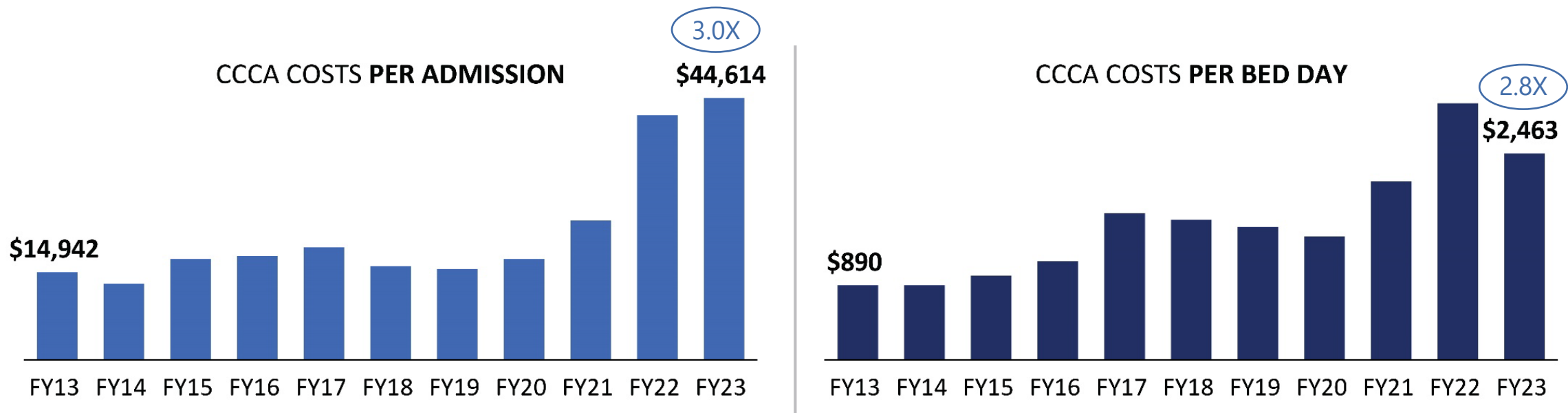
## CCCA accreditation was in jeopardy mid-2023

- 28 citations after an unannounced inspection by the Joint Commission, a national accreditation agency, in May 2023
- Determined to be an immediate threat to the health and safety of patients, according to DBHDS

Source: JLARC presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*, November 12, 2024



# CCCA costs per admission and per bed day nearly tripled over the past decade



Source: JLARC presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission entitled *Virginia’s State Psychiatric Hospitals*, November 12, 2024  
Note: Figures adjusted for inflation. CCCA = Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents

## Persistent operational and performance issues at CCCA, along with rising costs led to JLARC recommendation to explore closure and alternative placements

- Most other states do not operate a youth psychiatric hospital
- Other states contract with private providers to serve youth who require inpatient mental health treatment
  - Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee
- Some youth could be more appropriately served in crisis stabilization units or residential treatment centers
- Incremental demand for placements at private hospitals or other facilities would be relatively low due to CCCA's modest size
  - <2 patients admitted to CCCA per day, on average (FY21-FY23)
  - 550+ privately operated inpatient psychiatric beds for youth exist in Virginia

Source: JLARC presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*, November 12, 2024

## JLARC recommendation

- The General Assembly may wish to consider directing DBHDS to develop a plan to close CCCA and find or develop alternative effective, safe, and therapeutic placements for children and youth who would otherwise be admitted to CCCA.

Source: JLARC report entitled *Virginia's State Psychiatric Hospitals*, December 11, 2023

# BHC directed DBHDS to examine alternative placements to CCCA following operational concerns raised in 2023 JLARC study





Next meeting

September 9, 2025

Visit [bhc.virginia.gov](https://bhc.virginia.gov) for meeting materials