

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

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building

### **Members Present**

Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Senator Lashrecse Aird

Senator Barbara Favola

Senator Russet Perry

Delegate Ellen Campbell (virtual)

Delegate Patrick Hope

Delegate Adele McClure (virtual)

Delegate Chris Obenshain

Delegate Vivian Watts (virtual)

Delegate Rodney Willett

### **Members Absent**

Senator Tara Durant

Delegate Carrie Coyner

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

Roll Call – Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Nathalie Molliet Ribet provided an overview of the agenda and described the process that members would follow to vote on policy options and recommendations. Option and recommendations that received a majority of votes from each body would become formal Commission recommendations, and be taken up by BHC members as legislative bills and budget amendments during the 2026 legislative session.

BHC staff summarized the recommendations and options from each of the following studies completed in 2025:

1. Implementation and effectiveness of the Marcus Alert system (Claire Mairead, BHC Associate Analyst)
2. Aligning the crisis system with the civil commitment process (John Barfield, BHC Associate Analyst)
3. Monitoring and evaluation of the STEP-VA program (Abigail Cornwell, BHC Assistant Analyst)

After some discussion and questions, members unanimously voted to adopt all the study options and recommendations presented.

Claire Mairead also presented findings from a targeted study entitled *Local match of CSB state funding*. She described the requirements of the current local match, and presented findings on the extent to which CSBs comply with the requirement. Claire also offered reasons why certain

CSBs are not able to meet the 10 percent matching requirement. Lastly, she spoke about the limited options for enforcement of the match requirements, and answered members' questions.

Nathalie Molliet-Ribet briefed members on the options available to examine issues pertaining to individuals with developmental disabilities, including broadening the scope of the BHC beyond its current charge of improving the behavioral health system. She discussed the prevalence of behavioral health disorders and developmental disabilities, and described the different agencies that work on issues related to developmental disabilities in Virginia. Members discussed the options but due to a lack of quorum at that point in the meeting, opted to take a vote during the December meeting.

Alisa Padden, Assistant Executive Secretary and Legal Counsel at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia provided a briefing on *Jail diversion and Expedited Diversion to Court-Ordered Treatment (EDCOT)*, which was mandated by Item 31, Paragraph T, of the 2024 Appropriation Act. She discussed the different paths that individuals with a mental illness can follow in the criminal justice system. Ms. Padden then explained the EDCOT process and eligibility; she discussed the work groups' ethical and legal concerns with the concept and proposed bill, as well as all the additional services and workers that would be needed to serve individuals in EDCOT. Finally, she discussed the different options that can be implemented instead of EDCOT and answered members' questions.

Several individuals offered public comments.

Due to time constraints, the scheduled presentation from Mental Health Virginia was rescheduled to the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Commission meeting will be on December 2, 2025.

Delegate Watts participated virtually due to a scheduling conflict, Delegate Campbell participated virtually due to a personal matter, and Delegate McClure participated virtually due to a personal matter.