



Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services in Virginia Working Together to Build a System of Care

(Study authorized by 2004 Virginia General Assembly, Budget Item 330-F)

Approximately 70% of children with mental health problems do not receive the treatment they need. Children with untreated mental disorders are at higher risk for school failure, dropping out, violence, drug abuse, suicide, and criminal activity. (Voices for Virginia's Children, 2005)

Recommended Solutions

- **Build a strong system of care across Virginia—a system that has everyone working together with families and their children**
- **Fund elements of a system of care:**
 - **Implement more evidence-based programs that reduce the rate of youth recidivism in the juvenile justice system (\$4 million per year to expand the number of pilot sites from two to eight)**
 - **Build on the proven success of mental health programs in local detention centers to help prepare youth to become productive citizens (\$240,000 per year for four additional CSB/Detention Center collaborations)**
 - **Create partnerships between CSBs and schools to help children succeed in school (\$1.8 million per year for 20 pilot schools in five regions)**
 - **Train more child psychiatrists and psychologists to work in Virginia, and train other health care professionals in evidence-based practices in behavioral health (\$1.7 million per year)**
 - **Build a strong statewide Family Support Coalition by linking existing family support organizations to educate parents and professionals about children's mental health, and to increase family involvement in the development and implementation of local and state systems of care (\$500,000 per year)**

Please make vulnerable children a priority by endorsing these recommendations and investing \$8.24 million this year as a down payment on the future of children with behavioral health problems and their families.

This Endorsement Sheet is sponsored by the VA INFO (Virginia Integrated Network of Family Organizations). For more information call toll free 877-264-8366. Mail this form to VA INFO, 8660 Staples Mill Rd., Richmond, VA 23228 or Fax to 804-264-8426.

Statement of Endorsement:

Virginia needs a better way to serve children and families with behavioral health care needs. We endorse these increased funds to help build a strong system of care across the Commonwealth. A strong system of care will help guarantee that children and families who have mental health, mental retardation, or substance abuse services needs will have quick access to those services in their communities. We must train more professionals to work with children and families. These professionals must be able to use programs that work! We endorse and support this important issue to better the lives of Virginia's vulnerable children and families.

Name	Address	Date
Relationship (e.g. parent) /Position	Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	