



- ☑ **It's time for the next installment of the "down-payment" for individuals with mental illness**
  - We are grateful for the much-needed "down-payment" mental health funding that was provided in 2008 for adults and children/adolescents with mental illness. However, it was a first step.
  - Even in these challenging economic times, we must ensure that funding for mental health remains a priority, and that the gains from 2008 are not undone.
  - In order to continue improving the mental health system, additional, consistent, long-term investments are needed to move Virginia in the right direction with appropriate community-based care.
  - The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors reports that Virginia ranks 9th in the country on spending for institutional care, but only 39<sup>th</sup> on spending for community-based mental health services.
  
- ☑ **Ensure appropriate housing for persons living with serious mental illness.**
  - For many people with mental illness, living in unnecessarily restrictive housing is the only available option. Implementing the budget-neutral Portability of Auxiliary Housing Grants would allow eligible individuals more appropriate housing options.
  - All the medications, therapy, and treatment in the world don't mean much if an individual doesn't have access to safe, stable, and appropriate housing.
  
- ☑ **It's time to expand access to crisis stabilization services.**
  - With a shortage of psychiatric inpatient beds, many people experiencing a mental health crisis are unable to be hospitalized. Crisis stabilization provides needed alternatives to hospitalization, including respite care.
  - When people are discharged from psychiatric hospitalization, they may relapse without appropriate step-down care. Crisis stabilization can provide this essential level of care. Yet, much of Virginia has only limited access to crisis stabilization services.
  
- ☑ **Ensure local support for people in need of hospital placements, housing arrangements, and medication for indigent persons**
  - Local Inpatient Purchase of Beds (LIPOS) enables community services boards to plan and make arrangements for local hospital placements, housing arrangements, and medication for the prevention of serious crises and incidents.
  - Using private hospital beds can help leverage Medicaid funding for community services boards while keeping individuals closer to their homes, families, and peer supports.
  
- ☑ **Virginia must support children and adolescents with mental health needs**
  - Too many of our youth with serious mental health needs are experiencing school failure, family disruption, justice system involvement, and placements in psychiatric residential facilities—all at great cost to children, families, and society.
  - With an array of effective home and community-based mental health services, our youth can experience success at home, in school, and in the community.
  
- ☑ **Virginia can empower individual health-care decision-making.**
  - Advanced directive legislation enables and empowers individuals to make instructional health-care decisions pertaining to non-end-of-life care issues, such as mental health treatment.
  - Advance directives can facilitate communication between consumers, family members, and health care providers in determining treatment plans in case of psychiatric crisis.
  
- ☑ **Expand Jail Diversion capabilities, including Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT).**
  - Jail diversion keeps people with mental illness out of jail and gets them into treatment.
  - Crisis Intervention Teams helps law enforcement respond safely and quickly to people with serious mental illness in crisis--avoiding injuries, consumer deaths, jail time, and community tragedy.
  - CIT works — for law enforcement, for consumers, and for the community.