



## **Adopt a Community-Based Approach to Mental Health Care**

Creigh will prioritize mental health as an area that requires greater attention and policy focus. He will reduce stigma and discrimination and increase overall awareness and recognition of mental health issues. Building on recent reform efforts by Governor Kaine, he will work toward an overall community-based approach to mental health care that focuses on providing needed care in the most appropriate setting for each individual. Creigh will:

- *Strengthen relationships with Community Services Boards and add accountability measures to track program effectiveness.* Creigh knows that ensuring the best possible care for mentally-ill individuals will require a strong partnership with Virginia's network of Community Services Boards (CSBs). The 40 CSBs across the Commonwealth offer a unique ability to focus on the needs of individuals in the context of their communities. Creigh will direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDS) to work more closely with each of the CSBs to come up with a comprehensive, community-based plan for preventing and treating mental illnesses in their coverage areas. He will also implement outcome measurements for CSB and mental health programs to track their effectiveness and increase accountability.
- *Fund the Wounded Warrior Program for Virginia's Veterans.* Creigh supported the creation of the Wounded Warrior Program, an initiative to ensure that supplemental behavioral, health, and rehabilitation services are readily available to veterans and their families in all areas of the state. As governor, Creigh will make sure this vital program has sufficient resources to serve our heroes and their families.
- *Work with the Chief Justice and his mental health commission to implement needed changes on how the justice system interacts with the mental health system.* In response to the tragedy at Virginia Tech, Creigh worked to pass mental health reform legislation (SB 246) that changed the criteria for custody and detention

orders for the mentally ill. The legislation also cut the red tape and allowed for better disclosure of mental health information between parties in the criminal justice system. As governor, Creigh will work with the Chief Justice, law enforcement, and mental health advocates to examine the effectiveness of diverting those with serious mental illness from courts to the mental health treatment network.