

McDONNELL

★ GOVERNOR ★

Bob has an extensive record on mental health issues, including major reforms to move to a more community based system (HB2596 2001; HB995 2002). His legislation in 2001 provides for targeted facility restructuring of the mental health care system, giving the Commissioner the authority to close state mental health institutions. His 2002 legislation provides that for any restructuring of the system of mental health services involving existing state mental health facilities, the Commissioner must establish a state and community consensus and planning team.

Bob also played a significant role in mental health reforms after the Virginia Tech shooting. In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, McDonnell worked with Governor Kaine to issue Executive Order Number 50 instructing all executive branch agencies to immediately begin including the names of individuals found dangerous and ordered to undergo involuntary mental health treatment in the database accessed before the sale of firearms by licensed gun dealers to ineligible individuals. During the 2008 General Assembly session, Attorney General McDonnell supported legislation to ensure access to mental health information and modify standards for involuntary commitment of the mentally ill.

The McDonnell administration will be a strong advocate for the mental health community.

Bob recognizes the importance of community based mental health care and will continue to support the expansion of community based programs. He has always involved members of the mental health community in the policy making process, and he will continue to involve them and ask for their input as Governor.

Bob McDonnell supports expanding the use of drug treatment courts because the Virginia Supreme Court recent study confirms that this approach works to reduce recidivism and criminal court dockets. The evidence supports that treatment, accountability and tough legal consequences, in connection with specially trained judges and support staff, can help addicts establish a beachhead for long-term abstinence and recovery.

Bob also supports the Wounded Warrior program. The establishment of this program to aid with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) was a true bipartisan effort. The legislation authorized about a \$4.5 million program for two years. Bob McDonnell is concerned about our veterans returning from war with PTSD and TBI. As Governor, Bob McDonnell will keep faith with Virginia's wounded warriors and their families. Bob McDonnell will support the continuation of this program.

Bob McDonnell will announce the specifics of his plan for mental health reforms in the coming weeks. Please visit his website (www.bobmcdonnell.com) for updates!