



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JACK BARBER, M.D.
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.,
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Senate Finance Committee
10th Floor, General Assembly Building
910 Capitol Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Norment and Senator Hanger:

In the 2016 *Appropriation Act*, the General Assembly provided the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) with \$2.5 million each year of the current biennium to purchase private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for Discharge Assistance Planning (DAP) funds. Item 319.B of the Act requires DBHDS to report annually on the number of individuals served and the types of services provided by these funds.

This funding became available July 1 and while these important funds have not yet been deployed, DBHDS is currently in the final planning stages for the use and distribution of these funds. However, DBHDS has purposely delayed their obligation as protection against budget cuts given Virginia's challenging economic climate. We firmly believe these funds are critical to transition individuals from state hospitals to the community, but we also recognize that the funds do not impact existing personnel or programs. As such, the most prudent course has been to wait until we received direction on budget reduction actions before deploying these funds.

In the meantime, we would like to update you on the development of our plans to use the funds. DBHDS plans to deploy \$1.2 million in funds allocated by the General Assembly in 2016 for discharge assistance and transitional housing in Region V (eastern and southeastern portions of Virginia). These funds will facilitate state hospital discharges and help meet the General Assembly's intent in Item 319.B of building the needed community services for individuals to transition from the hospitals. We are currently holding the remaining \$1.3 million pending the announcement of our FY 2018 budget reduction targets. DBHDS will provide a more detailed accounting of the use of the FY 2017 funds by the next reporting date of October 1, 2017 or sooner if so desired.

DBHDS is grateful for the additional appropriations for private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for DAP funds, which will help provide needed services and strengthen our community-based system of care across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Barber". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jack Barber, M.D.

Cc: William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D.
Joe Flores
Susan Massart
Michael Tweedy
Kathy Drumwright
Daniel Herr
Donald Darr
Meghan McGuire
Will Frank



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JACK BARBER, M.D.
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable S. Chris Jones, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
General Assembly Building
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Delegate Jones:

In the 2016 *Appropriation Act*, the General Assembly provided the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) with \$2.5 million each year of the current biennium to purchase private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for Discharge Assistance Planning (DAP) funds. Item 319.B of the Act requires DBHDS to report annually on the number of individuals served and the types of services provided by these funds.

This funding became available July 1 and while these important funds have not yet been deployed, DBHDS is currently in the final planning stages for the use and distribution of these funds. However, DBHDS has purposely delayed their obligation as protection against budget cuts given Virginia's challenging economic climate. We firmly believe these funds are critical to transition individuals from state hospitals to the community, but we also recognize that the funds do not impact existing personnel or programs. As such, the most prudent course has been to wait until we received direction on budget reduction actions before deploying these funds.

In the meantime, we would like to update you on the development of our plans to use the funds. DBHDS plans to deploy \$1.2 million in funds allocated by the General Assembly in 2016 for discharge assistance and transitional housing in Region V (eastern and southeastern portions of Virginia). These funds will facilitate state hospital discharges and help meet the General Assembly's intent in Item 319.B of building the needed community services for individuals to transition from the hospitals. We are currently holding the remaining \$1.3 million pending the announcement of our FY 2018 budget reduction targets. DBHDS will provide a more detailed accounting of the use of the FY 2017 funds by the next reporting date of October 1, 2017 or sooner if so desired.

DBHDS is grateful for the additional appropriations for private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for DAP funds, which will help provide needed services and strengthen our community-based system of care across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack W. Barber, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jack W. Barber, MD
Interim Commissioner

Cc: William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D.
Joe Flores
Susan Massart
Michael Tweedy
Kathy Drumwright
Daniel Herr
Donald Darr
Meghan McGuire
Will Frank



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JACK BARBER, M.D.
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Richard D. Brown
Office of the Secretary of Finance
Patrick Henry Building
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Secretary Brown:

In the 2016 *Appropriation Act*, the General Assembly provided the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) with \$2.5 million each year of the current biennium to purchase private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for Discharge Assistance Planning (DAP) funds. Item 319.B of the Act requires DBHDS to report annually on the number of individuals served and the types of services provided by these funds.

This funding became available July 1 and while these important funds have not yet been deployed, DBHDS is currently in the final planning stages for the use and distribution of these funds. However, DBHDS has purposely delayed their obligation as protection against budget cuts given Virginia's challenging economic climate. We firmly believe these funds are critical to transition individuals from state hospitals to the community, but we also recognize that the funds do not impact existing personnel or programs. As such, the most prudent course has been to wait until we received direction on budget reduction actions before deploying these funds.

In the meantime, we would like to update you on the development of our plans to use the funds. DBHDS plans to deploy \$1.2 million in funds allocated by the General Assembly in 2016 for discharge assistance and transitional housing in Region V (eastern and southeastern portions of Virginia). These funds will facilitate state hospital discharges and help meet the General Assembly's intent in Item 319.B of building the needed community services for individuals to transition from the hospitals. We are currently holding the remaining \$1.3 million pending the announcement of our FY 2018 budget reduction targets. DBHDS will provide a more detailed accounting of the use of the FY 2017 funds by the next reporting date of October 1, 2017 or sooner if so desired.

DBHDS is grateful for the additional appropriations for private inpatient geriatric mental health services and for DAP funds, which will help provide needed services and strengthen our community-based system of care across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack W. Barber, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack W. Barber, MD
Interim Commissioner

Cc: William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D.
Joe Flores
Susan Massart
Michael Tweedy
Kathy Drumwright
Daniel Herr
Donald Darr
Meghan McGuire
Will Frank