



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

S. HUGHES MELTON, MD, MBA
FAAFP, FABAM
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

November 1, 2018

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Co-chair
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
14th Floor, Pocahontas Building,
900 East Main Street,
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Norment and Senator Hanger:

Pursuant to Item 311.E. of the 2018 *Appropriation Act*, the purpose of this letter is to report on the disbursement of funds appropriated for a statewide alternative transportation program in Virginia. Specifically, the language requires:

E. Out of this appropriation, \$2,500,000 the first year and \$4,500,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to provide alternative transportation for adults and children under a temporary detention order. The department shall structure the contract to phase in the program over a three-year period such that in year three the contract will result in the provision of services statewide. The department shall report on the disbursement of the funds to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than November 1, 2018. Annually, thereafter on October 1, the department shall report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the effectiveness and outcomes of the program funding.

Accordingly, I am writing to report, that as of October 15, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has posted a request for proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals from potential vendors to provide alternative transportation services statewide. DBHDS intends for this RFP to be posted for 45 days followed by a review process and then award of the contract. Operations are anticipated to begin in January 2019.

DBHDS is pursuing a statewide contract, allowing for economy of scale and uniform services across all five regions. The contract will be for the entire amount appropriated for the biennium (\$7M) for an 18 month period. In addition, it is important to note that the statewide contract vendor will likely require local or regional subcontracts to cover the entire Commonwealth. DBHDS will require the vendor to report on outcome and process measures in order to determine the effectiveness of the program and outcomes for individuals, law enforcement, and hospitals.

Next year's report will include information about the program's operation, utilization, and outcomes data by region, as available after 9 months of operation.

The \$7 million appropriated by the 2018 General Assembly for an alternative transportation program is an important step in removing the stigma of mental illness and helping individuals on the road to recovery. DBHDS has been and continues to be committed to providing this service across the Commonwealth. With the issuance of this RFP and the selection of a vendor, individuals across Virginia will be transported to a facility of temporary detention in a recovery-oriented, non-law enforcement vehicle.

DBHDS will continue to keep the General Assembly updated as the contract is awarded and services are provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Hughes Melton, MD, MBA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

S. Hughes Melton, MD, MBA

Enc.

Cc: The Honorable Daniel Carey, Jr.
Marvin Figueroa
Mike Tweedy
Susan Massart
Daniel Herr
Mindy Conley



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November 1, 2018

The Honorable S. Chris Jones, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
900 East Main Street
Pocahontas Building, 13th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Delegate Jones:

Pursuant to Item 311.E. of the 2018 *Appropriation Act*, the purpose of this letter is to report on the disbursement of funds appropriated for a statewide alternative transportation program in Virginia. Specifically, the language requires:

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S. Hughes Melton, MD, MBA

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November 1, 2018

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

Pursuant to Item 311.E. of the 2018 *Appropriation Act*, the purpose of this letter is to report on the disbursement of funds appropriated for a statewide alternative transportation program in Virginia. Specifically, the language requires:

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