



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

MIRA SIGNER
ACTING COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF
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November 1, 2019

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Co-chair
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Chris S. Jones, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Norment, Senator Hanger, and Delegate Jones:

Pursuant to Item 316.B. of the 2019 Appropriation Act, the purpose of this letter is to report on the number of individuals served and services provided by the Discharge Assistance Program (DAP). Specifically, the language requires:

B. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services shall report by November 1 of each year to the Secretary of Finance and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the number of individuals served through discharge assistance plans and the types of services provided.

Below you will find a description of the use of the \$2,500,000 provided in Item 316.B. of the 2018 Appropriation Act. However, these general fund dollars are only a portion of the total DAP funding provided to support individuals leaving state hospitals. In FY 2018, 762 individuals were clinically ready to leave the state hospitals but were unable to be discharged due to the lack of needed community housing, services and supports. This reflects a 32% increase in individuals with significant discharge barriers when compared to FY 2015. Additionally, the total number of individuals served with DAP in the community has grown by 65% during the same time period, increasing from 1,123 individuals in FY 2015 to 1,860 individuals in FY 2018.

Within this context, below you will find a description of the dollars expended, types of services provided, and number of individuals served with the \$2,500,000 provided by Item 316.B of the 2019 Appropriation Act:

- \$1,200,000 was provided for contracted intensive and transitional community programs for 88 individuals who were discharged from Eastern State Hospital (ESH) to Assisted Living Intensive community residential treatment. The services included were 24 hour intensive care, supervision and support, assistance with medication education and monitoring, support and assistance in engaging/transition to community based activities, and support toward transitioning to lower level of care as appropriate.
- \$647,500 was used to support 19 individuals discharged to a transitional group home that provides, housing and supervised residential treatment for up to 8 individuals, education related to management of mental health and medications, engagement in services on site and in the community, and support and skill building for transition to lower level of care as appropriate.
- Of the \$652,500 (\$212,416) specifically for Western State, a portion was used to continue supporting four individuals who were originally discharged using these funds. The region has been successful in reducing four of these plans as other resources became accessible or as the need for specialized services covered by the plans decreased. One of the four plans originally funded last year remains in excess of \$120,000/year due to the individual's continued need for intensive support and supervision in his residential setting.
- In addition to continuing to support these four individuals discharged in FY 2018, the balance of the WSH DAP funds were used to support discharges for fifteen other individuals from WSH during FY 2019. The average annual cost of these additional fifteen plans is approximately \$30,000 and the funds provided residential support in the community.

DBHDS will continue to keep the General Assembly updated as the service is implemented across the state of Virginia.

Sincerely,



Mira Signer
Acting Commissioner

Cc: Hon. Daniel Carey, M.D.
Marvin Figueroa
Susan Massart
Mike Tweedy