



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

ALISON G. LAND, FACHE  
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](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov)

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Janet D. Howell, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Luke Torian, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Howell and Delegate Torian:

Pursuant to Item 311.E. of the 2019 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 following the passage of the Item 311.E. of the 2019 Appropriations Act, the Department of Behavioral Health began developing the scope of work for statewide alternative transportation. This scope of work incorporated the recommendations of the "Alternative Transportation Workgroup" established by SB1426 and HB1221. On October 15, 2018, DBHDS posted a request for proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals from potential vendors to provide alternative transportation services statewide. Three vendors responded to the RFP and DBHDS evaluated the proposals and

began negotiations with G4S, the highest ranked vendor. In February 2019, DBHDS hired an Alternative Transportation Program Coordinator and on May 20, 2019 the Department awarded a contract to provide statewide Alternative Transportation services to G4S to provide statewide Alternative Transportation services.

The Department decided to pursue a statewide contract in order to allow for economy of scale and uniform services across all five DBHDS regions. The contract does allow the vendor to subcontract if needed in order 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.

Following the contract award to G4S in late May, DBHDS began targeted activities to support the implementation of alternative transportation statewide over the next two years. DBHDS has worked with stakeholders to finalize the protocols for adults and develop protocols for children and youth. The initial rollout schedule for adults is as follows:

- First rollout – Region 3 (Fall 2019)
- Second rollout – Region 1 (Winter 2019)
- Third rollout – Region 2 (Spring 2020)
- Fourth rollout – Region 5 (Summer 2020)
- Fifth rollout – Region 4 (Fall 2020)

The roll-out schedule for children and youth will be finalized upon completion of the protocols for transporting children, youth, and when appropriate parents and guardians. These protocols are expected to be completed by July 1, 2020.

The \$2,500,000 in general fund dollars to support alternative transportation were expended in the following manner:

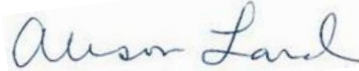
- \$1,500,000 was distributed to CSB operated CIT Assessment Centers to support existing alternative transportation services pending the completion of the roll out of the state wide service;
- \$667,347.83 was paid to G4S for start-up costs;
- \$60,000 was allocated to provide regional state holder meetings and training activities;
- \$27,215 was used to support the employment of the DBHDS Alternative Transportation Coordinator;
- \$97.60 was expended to post the RFP; and
- \$245,339.38 in remaining balance was returned to the Commonwealth.

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 as the program rolls out across Virginia, ensuring that, when it is safe and appropriate to do so, individuals will be

taken to a facility of temporary detention in a respectful, supportive manner that does not require law enforcement transport.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Land". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Alison Land  
Commissioner

Cc:

The Honorable Daniel Carey, MD

Susan E. Massart

Mike Tweedy