



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

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TO: The Honorable Janet D. Howell, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Luke Torian, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Fr: Alison G. Land, FACHE

Pursuant to 320 S.2 of the 2020 *Appropriation Act*, the purpose of this letter is to report on the use of FY21 Developmental Disability (DD) waivers slots that have been assigned to individuals by the Community Services Boards and of those how many individuals are currently accessing services.

Specifically the language requires:

2. The department shall report within 30 days after the close of each quarter, the number of new slots for the fiscal year that have been allocated by Community Services and of those how many are accessing services. The report shall be provided on the department's website.

At the end of the FY21 fiscal year, DBHDS confirms that all slots not restricted for a particular purpose have been assigned by the local Waiver Slot Assignment Committees (WSACs) to individuals determined most in need of DD waiver services and those individuals were paired with the appropriate slot in the electronic Waiver Management System (WaMS).

Table 1 details the number of unique individuals assigned FY21 DD waivers “no restriction” slots (both Community Living and Family & Individual Supports waivers) as of the end of each quarter, by CSB, with the first column representing the total number of FY21 DD waiver slots each CSB had to assign. Once a CSB’s total number of allocated slots have been assigned, that number appears in each of the subsequent quarters to indicate that all allocated FY21 slots have been distributed to individuals from the waiting list.

Table 1: Total number of FY21 DD waivers “no restriction” (both Community Living and Family & Individual Supports waivers) slots assigned by quarter and Community Services Board.

Community Services Board	# of FY21 Slots Allocated	# of Waivers Assigned			
		FY21 Q1	FY21 Q2	FY21 Q3	FY21 Q4
Alexandria Community Services Board	12	12	12	12	12
Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board	2	2	2	2	2
Arlington County Community Services Board	17	17	17	17	17
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare	24	1	24	24	24
Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare	18	18	18	18	18
Chesterfield Community Services Board	41	0	41	41	41
Colonial Behavioral Health (CBH)	14	14	14	14	14
Crossroads Community Services Board	9	6	7	8	9
Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board	8	8	8	8	8
Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board	11	11	11	11	11
Dickenson County Behavioral Health Services	2	1	1	2	2
District 19 Community Services Board	14	14	14	14	14
Eastern Shore Community Services Board	4	1	1	4	4
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	113	0	113	113	113
Goochland-Powhatan Community Services	4	3	4	4	4
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board	26	26	26	26	26
Hanover County Community Services Board	12	12	12	12	12
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board	12	12	12	12	12
Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services Board	31	0	31	31	31
Highlands Community Services Board	6	0	6	6	6
Horizon Behavioral Health	19	8	13	19	19
Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services	38	37	38	38	38
Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board	13	13	13	13	13
Mount Rogers Community Services Board	10	10	10	10	10
New River Valley Community Services	18	18	18	18	18
Norfolk Community Services Board	22	22	22	22	22
Northwestern Community Services Board	21	1	21	21	21
Piedmont Community Services Board	12	12	12	12	12
Planning District One Behavioral Health Services	7	5	7	7	7
Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services	8	8	8	8	8
Prince William County Community Services Board	45	45	45	45	45
Rappahannock Area Community Services Board	42	0	42	42	42
Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board	15	0	15	15	15
Region Ten Community Services Board	24	24	24	24	24
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority	19	0	19	19	19
Rockbridge Area Community Services	3	2	3	3	3
Southside Community Services Board	6	2	6	6	6
Valley Community Services Board	12	0	12	12	12
Virginia Beach Community Services Board	33	0	33	33	33
Western Tidewater Community Services Board	13	13	13	13	13
Total	760	378	748	759	760

Table 2 details the total number of DD waivers slots appropriated for FY21 by category and the number assigned as of the end of each quarter. Facility slots are assigned by DBHDS as needed to enable individuals to move from institutional settings into the community. Reserve slots are assigned by DBHDS to enable individuals to move between waivers as their needs change or for emergency purposes. All slots have been assigned other than 24 FY21 facility slots.

Table 2. Total number of DD waivers slots appropriated for FY21 by category and the number assigned by quarter.

Slot Type - FY 2021	# of Slots Appropriated	# of FY21 Slots Assigned as of Quarter end			
		FY21Q1	FY21Q2	FY21Q3	FY21Q4
CL - Facility	20	0	0	0	0
CL - Regular (No Restriction)	125	67	123	125	125
CL - Reserve	15	0	0	6	15
FIS - Facility	5	0	1	1	1
FIS - Regular (No Restriction)	635	311	625	634	635
FIS - Reserve	10	4	6	8	10
Total	810	382	755	774	786

Finally, Table 3 shows the number of unique individuals who received a FY21 DD waiver slot who are now authorized for at least one DD waiver service. At this time, 76 percent of the individuals assigned one of these slots have been authorized to begin at least one waiver service. The second and third quarter totals in Table 3 are slightly higher than were listed in the third quarter version of this report (209 vs. 204 and 236 vs. 229, respectively) because of the nuances of the service authorization process. While services are requested to start on a given date, there are occasionally questions/additional information required from DBHDS staff who conduct service authorization, which suspend (termed “pend”) the authorization process and temporarily delay the final approval. Once all issues are resolved, the originally requested start date is often given, placing the authorization in a previous quarter.

A significant time delay between slot assignment and service authorization is typically expected due to the following required steps:

- Individual formal acceptance of the slot offered
- Confirmation/updating of functional and financial eligibility
- Confirmation of updated physical exam
- Individual/family selection of service providers
- Service providers intake process for the new individual
- Development of the Individual Support Plan
- Service Authorization process

COVID-19 has exacerbated the typical process-related delays due to a reduction in the number of providers of certain services due to permanent or temporary closures and individuals’/families’ reluctance to expose themselves/their loved ones to unfamiliar people. Moreover, DBHDS staff

are normally required to reassign waiver slots not being utilized after 150 days from the date of slot assignment, but, due to the pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have prohibited the termination of individuals' eligibility for Medicaid services. This has resulted in a temporary halt to actions to repossess and reassign slots in situations in which individuals or their families do not begin waiver services in a timely manner.

There are ten FY21 slots not shown in Table 3 that have services authorized to start in early July (in FY22). Investigation into the circumstances around the delay in start of services for these individuals reveals the following:

- Three individuals experienced delays in the ability to start DD waiver services due to desired providers being temporarily closed or unable to hire staff due to COVID.
- Four individuals' families were unwilling until recently to have their loved ones start services because of fears of contracting COVID.
- One individual experienced delays due to a combination of the above two factors.
- One individual experienced delays due to family concerns about COVID and delays in Medicaid eligibility determination.
- One individual experienced delays due to service authorization "pends" and coordination of benefits issues.

It is highly likely that there are similar circumstances at play for the remaining 23 percent who have not yet been authorized to start services.

Table 3. Number of individuals who received a FY21 DD waiver "no restriction" (both Community Living and Family & Individual Supports waivers) slot by quarter of their first service approved and CSB.

	Total Persons with FY21 "No Restriction" Slots Authorized for Services	FY21 Q1	FY21 Q2	FY21 Q3	FY21 Q4
Community Services Board					
Alexandria Community Services Board	9	0	4	3	2
Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board	1	0	0	1	0
Arlington County Community Services Board	17	0	13	4	0
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare	18	0	5	8	5
Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare	14	0	8	1	5
Chesterfield Community Services Board	34	0	13	17	4
Colonial Behavioral Health (CBH)	12	1	10	1	0
Crossroads Community Services Board	7	1	3	1	2
Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board	8	0	4	2	2
Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board	11	0	8	3	0
Dickenson County Behavioral Health Services	2	0	0	2	0
District 19 Community Services Board	7	0	2	2	3
Eastern Shore Community Services Board	1	0	0	0	1

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board	64	0	3	30	31
Goochland-Powhatan Community Services	3	0	2	1	0
Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board	22	0	15	4	3
Hanover County Community Services Board	12	0	4	7	1
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board	10	0	4	3	3
Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services Board	24	0	0	16	8
Highlands Community Services Board	6	0	2	4	0
Horizon Behavioral Health	14	0	8	2	4
Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse	28	0	11	10	7
Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board	11	0	4	7	0
Mount Rogers Community Services Board	10	0	5	4	1
New River Valley Community Services	17	0	5	7	5
Norfolk Community Services Board	15	0	9	2	4
Northwestern Community Services Board	17	1	5	8	3
Piedmont Community Services Board	10	0	2	7	1
Planning District One Behavioral Health Services	6	0	2	4	0
Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services	7	0	0	5	2
Prince William County Community Services Board	42	0	28	9	5
Rappahannock Area Community Services Board	17	0	0	6	11
Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board	13	0	4	7	2
Region Ten Community Services Board	15	0	1	11	3
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority	15	0	3	9	3
Rockbridge Area Community Services	2	0	0	2	0
Southside Community Services Board	5	0	0	4	1
Valley Community Services Board	12	0	2	9	1
Virginia Beach Community Services Board	28	0	11	11	6
Western Tidewater Community Services Board	12	0	9	2	1
Total	578	3	209	236	130

In conclusion, while all FY21 DD waiver slots in the reserve category, some in the facility category and all in the “no restriction” category have been assigned to individuals, the work of linking individuals to the appropriate waiver services is a continuing effort, made more challenging this past year and currently by the COVID pandemic.

cc: The Honorable Daniel Carey, Jr.
Vanessa Walker Harris, M.D.
Mike Tweedy
Susan Massart