



2018 PRIORITIES

ADDRESSING THE URGENT WAIVER WAITING LIST

Fully fund the Priority 1 urgent waiver waiting list by FY 2020.

- Individuals in Priority 1 have been assessed by as needing services **immediately**. By the Commonwealth's own definition, it is imperative to fund Priority 1 to address the urgent needs of these citizens.
- The current system of only funding a few hundred additional waivers each year has driven people into various states of crisis for services – a method which only ends up costing the Commonwealth more money, both in the short-term and in the long run, and guarantees that the waiting list will only continue to grow.
- By eliminating the wait for anyone in Priority 1, we can begin to focus on serving people elsewhere on the waiting list whose service costs are lower – bringing balance and efficiency to our system.

FURTHERING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Direct the VA Department of Education to work with two public school divisions in a pilot program to identify the resources that would be needed to, (1) return students in private school placements to their neighborhood schools, (2) prevent out-of-public school placements for students at risk of placement, and (3) suggest a process for redirecting CSA and Department of Education dollars to secure the identified resources and services.

- Since the first study by the Commission on Youth that examined spending by the Office of Children's Services for private special education placements, school division representatives serving on workgroups and offering comment have repeatedly stated that they would prefer to serve the children they have placed in a private special education school in their communities in a public school.
- School divisions should be supported in identifying specific training, staffing, specialists, or other services they feel that they need in order build the capacity to return students to public school or to prevent out-of-school placements.
- The General Assembly has already directed the staff of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee to form a workgroup charged with, among other things, the identification of the resources necessary in order to transition students in private day school settings to a less restrictive environment. **This bill would support the efforts of this workgroup**, by assisting school divisions in articulating what they need in order to build capacity to return students to neighborhood public schools.

POLICY PRIORITIES

ENSURE WAIVER RATES PROVIDE A LIVING WAGE FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Current waiver rates do not provide a living wage for Direct Support Professionals. There is a critical need for available professionals to provide direct services to people in the community. According to the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), approximately *two million* direct support professionals will be needed nationwide to meet the needs of people with disabilities living in their communities.

CONTINUE TO DEFER ENROLLMENT OF DD WAIVER SERVICES INTO MANAGED CARE

With the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement and Waiver redesign implementation, the system cannot withstand additional changes without a time of settling into the new standards of operation.

FULFILL COMMITMENT TO CLOSE TRAINING CENTERS

Complete the closure of the two remaining state training centers and transition to a community-based care system, as required by the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement.



“A Life Like Yours.”

The Arc of Virginia promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.



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