

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
UPDATE ON “STREETING” IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

Senate Finance Committee
Subcommittee on Public Safety
Thursday, September 8, 2011

- In its March 31, 2011 Semi-Annual Report, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) noted that it was introduced to the term “streeted” during its following-up of the impact on Hampton Roads of the 2010 downsizing of Eastern State Hospital (ESH).

An individual qualifies as “streeted” (according to the HPR V definition of the term) when they have been determined to meet the criteria for a Temporary Detention Order (TDO) but are released from custody because an accepting facility cannot be located to admit the person. Based on anecdotal reports from other CSB’s, the OIG subsequently estimated that approximately 200 people had been *streeted* statewide during the previous twelve months. (Refer to attached *Streeting Information for CSBs*)

- In order to provide an objective basis for understanding the extent and causes of *streeting* in Virginia, on July 15, 2011, following a brief pilot program, the OIG and the DBHDS launched a joint statewide initiative. The “TDO Outcome Report” form attached to this material forms the basis of the information we are currently collecting from all 40 CSBs/Behavioral Health Authorities.
- This is the first coordinated statewide effort among the OIG, DBHDS, CSBs and the private hospital association designed to identify “stress points” in service delivery for persons determine to meet TDO criteria by screening professionals. The review was designed for the initial data to be routed through regional managers so that emerging patterns, specific to each region, can be recognized and considered. The two key components of this joint review are:
 1. The number of persons identified as meeting the criteria for TDO for which no accepting facility could be located and the TDO was not executed; and,
 2. The number of individuals for whom the TDO was executed but the time that it took for a willing facility to be located extended beyond the 6 hour limit established by the *Code*.

Update on “Streeting” in the Commonwealth

Prepared for Senate Finance Committee’s Subcommittee on Public Safety

Each scenario represents a failure of the service delivery system in meeting the established statutory requirements. The OIG and DBHDS have designated these as quality indicators by which to measure the performance of the chain of providers involved in the process.

- In addition to the ongoing data collection, as of this date, the Inspector General has met with Emergency Services Managers at 35 of the state’s 40 CSBs to discuss their unique perspective(s) on this issue. (By the end of September, the IG will have met with ES managers from all CSBs.) These meetings and the bi-monthly regional outcome report have raised the consciousness of regional issues that were previously off the radar. This outcome alone makes this project a successful venture in recognizing areas within the TDO process where improvements can be made regionally and around the state.
- In addition, during this process, the Joint Commission on Health Care had rekindled interest in creating a statewide bed registry to expedite locating a private psychiatric facility to admit a person meeting TDO criteria.¹ Some crisis workers report contacting upwards of 20 private providers in an effort to locate a facility willing to accept the most challenging individuals.
- Preliminary results suggest that, during one two-week period, there were approximately 100 incidents reported statewide meeting the above criteria. It is important to note that this does not reflect the number of total evaluations for which TDOs were sought.

Of the 100 reported incidents, approximately 20% involved individuals meeting criteria for temporary detention for which a TDO was not executed. Of the TDOs that were executed approximately 80% exceeded the statutory 6 hour time limit.

This information represents raw data and must be analyzed and placed in context with other reporting periods, but the data suggests that the problem of *streeting* is, at least, as serious as estimated in the OIG’s March 31st Semi-Annual Report.

- By October 14, 2011, the OIG and the DBHDS will have collected a 90-day sample of the TDO process and, following analysis of the data, we expect to be in a position to make meaningful recommendations to end *streeting* in Virginia – or at least to make it a sentinel and rare event.

¹ § 37.2-808 of the *Code* lists the criteria for temporary detention including: a person has a mental illness and is likely to cause “serious harm to himself or others,” a “lack of capacity” to protect himself from harm or to provide for basic human needs, and “is in need of hospitalization or treatment.”