



Presenting on behalf of the Campaign:

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Voices for Virginia's Children

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National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Virginia

Virginia Association of Community Services Boards



THE CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

- Promote long-overdue reforms to a system that is chronically...
- Fragmented
 - DBHDS, CSA, DJJ, DSS, DOE, DMAS, private sector
 - Little accountability – who is responsible for outcomes
- Underfunded
 - OIG report found serious gaps in community-based services, long waits
 - Critical shortages of trained professionals
- Ineffective
 - DBHDS estimates only 1 in 5 find the help they need
 - Best practices lacking



IMPACT OF FURTHER CUTS TO CHILD MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents

- Serves 800+ per year, all sent to CCCA because can't be served in private hospitals
 - Unmanageable violence
 - Self-injurious behavior
 - Complicating medical conditions
 - Developmental disabilities
 - Deviant sexual behavior
 - Confined in juvenile correction facility
 - Uninsured or insurance has run out



IMPACT OF CUTS (continued)

Voices for Virginia's Children projection:

- \$2.1 M to purchase local inpatient care for uninsured kids will cover at best only 300 of the 800 served annually at CCCA
- **500 kids who need acute psychiatric inpatient care will go unserved.**
- **Untreated psychiatric emergencies have potentially dire consequences for children and their families, schools and communities.**



IMPACT OF CUTS (continued)

For every \$1 million cut from mental health services, approximately 15 jobs are lost

- If these employees serve children...
- Waiting lists and waiting times will grow
- Community-based services will shrink even further – bigger gaps
- More kids will deteriorate; increases in
 - Violence
 - Suicide attempts
 - Family conflicts
 - School disruptions
 - Substance abuse



IMPACT OF CUTS (continued)

Conclusion:

- Fewer kids, many with serious problems, will find the services they need
- Unserved, many will deteriorate further, causing new demands on families, schools, CSA, Medicaid, and juvenile justice
- Resulting in tremendous costs that will far exceed the savings
- And exact a human toll that is unfair and indefensible

**A system that is supposed to help children
who have no other place to turn
will instead turn its back**