

**Remarks to the Senate Finance Committee, Health and Human Resources Subcommittee  
29 September 2015**

The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) and its member organizations remain committed to the ongoing, joint efforts to amend Virginia's existing Waivers in accordance with the stated objective of moving our system of services and supports for individuals with developmental disability needs to one that allows robust options for the most integrated and independent settings for living and community engagement. VACSB continues to support Waiver re-design as a critical step forward.

Many of the core components of Waiver re-design as they were presented to this committee early this year remain the same and VACSB continues to support them. For example:

- Each of the three existing Waivers will be converted to a Waiver with a name that more accurately describes the Waiver and that has additional services and supports that are in line with the stated objectives
- Every individual who is currently on a Waiver will retain his/her slot during the conversion process
- There will be a single, needs-based waiting list for all individuals
- Slots will continue to be allocated to CSBs for assignment by slot assignment committees, beginning with individuals with the most urgent needs

There are some concepts that have evolved since the last General Assembly session and that will serve to further strengthen the foundational elements. For example:

- CSB staff will not be voting members on slot assignment committees; the only role for the CSB in the revised process will be to present information on individuals and their level of need; DBHDS will also provide training and support to individuals who wish to serve on slot assignment committees which will increase standardization of practices and transparency

There are also some concepts that have evolved since the last General Assembly session that need additional discussion before VACSB would be supportive of including them in this initial phase of Waiver re-design implementation. Many of these are details that can most likely be resolved without undue impact to either the philosophical ideals of Waiver re-design or on the real-world implementation and therefore do not rise to the level of significant discord among stakeholder organizations.

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**VACSB Officers**

**Chair: Al Collins, Rappahannock Area Community Services Board**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: F. Gibbons Sloan, Chesterfield Community Services Board**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: David Coe, Colonial Behavioral Health**  
**Secretary: Linda R. Drage, Piedmont Community Services Board**  
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**Executive Director: Jennifer Faison**

The use of prescribed services packages and supports budgets as tools to encourage individuals and families to engage in levels of residential and day supports and services that may not comport with their person centered plans as is currently envisioned by DBHDS; however, is a critical barrier to successful re-design implementation. This concept is nuanced, complicated and may require information and education beyond these brief remarks to fully appreciate the potential to disrupt the trusting relationships that case managers have developed with families and the role of the case manager as an advocate and system-navigator for individuals and families.

VACSB believes that if the utilization of service packages and supports budgets is deemed necessary by DBHDS, DMAS and the General Assembly, the current concept should be amended to ensure that they are used as a tool for data collection only so that we can gain a real-world understanding of how individuals and families are using the newly re-designed service arrays in each Waiver and whether we are making appropriate assumptions about what an individual should need to be supported in the community based on his or her Supports Intensity Scale score and accordant "level".

We are otherwise thrilled by the opportunities presented in the current vision for Waiver re-design and believe that they will serve to strengthen our system and allow us all to achieve our goals. VACSB stands ready to assist this subcommittee in any way it deems appropriate and looks forward to continuing the Waiver re-design with our state and advocacy partners.

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