

**AMENDMENT 3
AMENDED AND RESTATED
FY2026 AND FY2027 COMMUNITY SERVICES PERFORMANCE CONTRACT
MASTER AGREEMENT**

**Addendum II: Central Office, State Facility, and Community Services Board
Partnership Agreement**

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Section 1: Purpose

The Central Office of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (Department), state hospitals and training centers (state facilities) operated by the Department, and community services boards (CSBs), which are entities of local governments, are the operational partners in Virginia's public system for providing mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services. CSBs include operating CSBs, administrative policy CSBs, and policy-advisory CSBs to local government departments and the behavioral health authority that are established pursuant to Chapters 5 and 6, respectively, of Title 37.2 of the Code of Virginia.

Pursuant to State Board Policy 1034, the partners enter into this agreement to implement the vision statement articulated in State Board Policy 1036 and to improve the quality of care provided to individuals receiving services (individuals) and enhance the quality of their lives. The goal of this agreement is to establish a fully collaborative partnership process through which CSBs, the Central Office, and state facilities can reach agreements on operational and policy matters and issues. In areas where it has specific statutory accountability, responsibility, or authority, the Central Office will make decisions or determinations with the fullest possible participation and involvement by the other partners. In all other areas, the partners will make decisions or determinations jointly. The partners also agree to make decisions and resolve problems at the level closest to the issue or situation whenever possible. Nothing in this partnership agreement nullifies, abridges, or otherwise limits or affects the legal responsibilities or authorities of each partner, nor does this agreement create any new rights or benefits on behalf of any third parties.

The partners share a common desire for the system of care to excel in the delivery and seamless continuity of services for individuals and their families and seek similar collaborations or opportunities for partnerships with advocacy groups for individuals and their families and other system stakeholders. We believe that a collaborative strategic planning process helps to identify the needs of individuals and ensures effective resource allocation and operational decisions that contribute to the continuity and effectiveness of care provided across the public mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services system. We agree to engage in such a collaborative planning process.

This partnership agreement also establishes a framework for covering other relationships that may exist among the partners. Examples of these relationships include regional initiatives such as the regional utilization management teams, regional crisis stabilization programs, regional discharge assistance programs, regional local inpatient purchases of services, and REACH programs.

Section 2: Roles and Responsibilities

Although this partnership philosophy helps to ensure positive working relationships, each partner has a unique role in providing public mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services. These distinct roles promote varying levels of expertise and create opportunities for identifying the most effective mechanisms for planning, delivering, and evaluating services.

A. Central Office

1. Ensures through distribution of available state and federal funding that an individually focused and community-based system of care, supported by community and state facility resources, exists for the delivery of publicly funded services and supports to individuals with mental health or substance use disorders or developmental disabilities.
2. Promotes the public mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder service delivery system (including the Central Office) quality improvement efforts that focus on individual outcome and provider performance

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measures designed to enhance service quality, accessibility, and availability, and provides assistance to the greatest extent practicable with Department-initiated surveys and data requests.

3. Supports and encourages the maximum involvement to ensure that services are not imposed on individuals receiving services. The receiver of services should be an active participant in the planning, delivery, and documentation of services whenever practical participation of individuals receiving services and family members of individuals receiving services in policy formulation and services planning, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation.
4. Ensures fiscal accountability that is required in applicable provisions of the Code, relevant state and federal regulations, and policies of the State Board.
5. Promotes identification of state-of-the-art, best or promising practice, or evidence-based programming and resources that exist as models for consideration by other partners.
6. Seeks opportunities to affect regulatory, policy, funding, and other decisions made by the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the General Assembly, the Department of Medical Assistance Services and other state agencies, and federal agencies that interact with or affect the other partners.
7. Encourages and facilitates state interagency collaboration and cooperation to meet the service needs of individuals and to identify and address statewide interagency issues that affect or support an effective system of care.
8. Serves as the single point of accountability to the Governor and the General Assembly for the public system of mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services.
9. Problem solves and collaborates with a CSB and state facility together on a complex or difficult situation involving an individual who is receiving services when the CSB and state facility have not been able to resolve the situation successfully at their level.

B. Community Services Boards

1. Pursuant to § 37.2-500 and 37.2-600 of the Code and State Board Policy 1035, serve as the single points of entry into the publicly funded system of individually focused and community-based services and supports for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders or developmental disabilities, including individuals with co-occurring disorders in accordance with State Board Policy 1015.
2. Serve as the local points of accountability for the public mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder service delivery system.
3. To the fullest extent that resources allow, promote the delivery of community-based services that address the specific needs of individuals, particularly those with complex needs, with a focus on service quality, accessibility, integration, and availability and on self-determination, empowerment, and recovery.
4. Support and encourage the maximum involvement and participation of individuals receiving services and family members of individuals receiving services in policy formulation and services planning, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation.

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5. Establish services and linkages that promote seamless and efficient transitions of individuals between state facility and community services.
6. Promote sharing of program knowledge and skills with other partners to identify models of service delivery that have demonstrated positive outcomes for individuals receiving services.
7. Problem-solve and collaborate with state facilities on complex or difficult situations involving individuals receiving services.
8. Encourage and facilitate local interagency collaboration and cooperation to meet the other services and supports needs, including employment and stable housing, of individuals receiving services.

C. State Facilities

1. Provide psychiatric hospitalization and other services to individuals identified by CSBs as meeting statutory requirements for admission in § 37.2-817 of the Code and criteria in the Continuity of Care Procedures in the CSB Administrative Requirements, including the development of specific capabilities to meet the needs of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in accordance with State Board Policy 1015.
2. Within the resources available, provide residential, training, or habilitation services to individuals with developmental disabilities identified by CSBs as needing those services in a training center and who are certified for admission pursuant to § 37.2-806 of the Code.
3. To the fullest extent that resources allow, provide services that address the specific needs of individuals with a focus on service quality, accessibility, and availability and on self-determination, empowerment, and recovery.
4. Support and encourage the involvement and participation of individuals receiving services and family members of individuals receiving services in policy formulation and services planning, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation.
5. Establish services and linkages that promote seamless and efficient transitions of individuals
6. Promote sharing of program knowledge and skills with other partners to identify models of service delivery that have demonstrated positive outcomes for individuals.
7. Problem-solve and collaborate with CSBs on complex or difficult situations involving individuals receiving services.

Section 3: Vision and Core Values

The Central Office, state facilities, and CSBs share a common desire for the public system of care to excel in the delivery and seamless continuity of services to individuals receiving services and their families. While they are interdependent, each partner works independently with both shared and distinct points of accountability, such as state, local, or federal governments, other funding sources, individuals receiving services, and families. The partners embrace a common vision and core values that guide the Central Office, state facilities, and CSBs in developing and implementing policies, planning services, making decisions, providing services, and measuring the effectiveness of service delivery.

A. Vision Statement

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The vision, as articulated in State Board Policy 1036, is of a system of quality recovery-oriented services and supports that respects the rights and values of individuals with mental illnesses, intellectual disability, other developmental disabilities who are eligible for or are receiving Medicaid developmental disability waiver services, or substance use disorders, is driven by individuals receiving services, and promotes self-determination, empowerment, recovery, resilience, health and overall wellness, and the highest possible level of participation by individuals receiving services in all aspects of community life, including work, school, family, and other meaningful relationships. This vision also includes the principles of inclusion, participation, and partnership.

B. Core Values

1. Underpinning the vision are the core values of accountability, responsiveness, accessibility and localized solution meaning:
2. The Central Office, state facilities, and CSBs are working in partnership; we hold each other accountable for adhering to our core values.
3. As partners, we will focus on fostering a culture of responsiveness and striving for continuous quality improvement.
4. All services should be designed to be welcoming, accessible, and capable of providing interventions properly matched to the needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders.
5. As partners, we will make decisions and resolve problems at the level closest to the issue or situation whenever possible.

Section 4: Indicators Reflecting Core Values

The public system of care in Virginia is guided by simple, cost-effective measures reflecting the core values and expectations identified by the Central Office, state facilities, and CSBs. Subsequently, any indicators or measures should reflect the core values listed in the preceding section. The partners agree to identify, prioritize, collect, and utilize these measures as part of the quality assurance systems mentioned in Section 6 of this agreement and in the quality improvement plan described in Section 6.b of the community services performance contract.

Section 5: Advancing the Vision

The partners agree to engage in activities to advance the achievement of the Vision Statement contained in State Board Policy 1036 and Section 3 of this agreement, including these activities.

1. **Recovery:** The partners agree, to the greatest extent possible, to:
 - a. provide more opportunities for individuals receiving services to be involved in decision making,
 - b. increase recovery-oriented, peer-provided, and consumer-run services,
 - c. educate staff and individuals receiving services about recovery, and
 - d. assess and increase the recovery orientation of CSBs, the Central Office, and state hospitals.
2. **Integrated Services:** The partners agree to advance the values and principles in the Charter Agreement signed by the CSB and the Central Office and to increase effective screening and assessment of individuals for co-occurring disorders to the greatest extent possible.
3. **Person-Centered Planning:** The partners agree to promote awareness of the principles of person-centered planning, disseminate and share information about person-centered planning, and participate on work groups focused on implementing person-centered planning.

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Section 6: Critical Success Factors

The partners agree to engage in activities that will address the following seven critical success factors. These critical success factors are required to transform the current service system's crisis response orientation to one that provides incentives and rewards for implementing the vision of a recovery and resilience-oriented and person-centered system of services and supports. Successful achievement of these critical success factors will require the support and collective ownership of all system stakeholders.

1. Virginia successfully implements a recovery and resilience-oriented and person-centered system of services and supports.
2. Publicly funded services and supports that meet growing mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services needs are available and accessible across the Commonwealth.
3. Funding incentives and practices support and sustain quality care focused on individuals receiving services and supports, promote innovation, and assure efficiency and cost effectiveness.
4. State facility and community infrastructure and technology efficiently and appropriately meet the needs of individuals receiving services and supports.
5. A competent and well-trained mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services system workforce provides needed services and supports.
6. Effective service delivery and utilization management assures that individuals and their families receive services and supports that are appropriate to their needs.
7. Mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services and supports meet the highest standards of quality and accountability.

Section 7: Accountability

The Central Office, state facilities, and CSBs agree that it is necessary and important to have a system of accountability. The partners also agree that any successful accountability system requires early detection with faithful, accurate, and complete reporting and review of agreed-upon accountability indicators. The partners further agree that early detection of problems and collaborative efforts to seek resolutions improve accountability. To that end, the partners commit themselves to a problem identification process defined by open sharing of performance concerns and a mutually supportive effort toward problem resolution. Technical assistance, provided in a non-punitive manner designed not to "catch" problems but to resolve them, is a key component in an effective system of accountability.

Where possible, joint work groups, representing CSBs, the Central Office, and state facilities, shall review all surveys, measures, or other requirements for relevance, cost benefit, validity, efficiency, and consistency with this statement prior to implementation and on an ongoing basis as requirements change. In areas where it has specific statutory accountability, responsibility, or authority, the Central Office will make decisions or determinations with the fullest possible participation and involvement by the other partners. In all other areas, the partners will make decisions or determinations jointly.

The partners agree that when accreditation or another publicly recognized independent review addresses an accountability issue or requirement, where possible, compliance with this outside review will constitute adherence to the accountability measure or reporting requirement. Where accountability and compliance rely on affirmations, the partners agree to make

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due diligence efforts to comply fully. The Central Office reserves the powers given to the department to review and audit operations for compliance and veracity and upon cause to take actions necessary to ensure accountability and compliance.

Section 8: Involvement and Participation of Individuals Receiving Services and Their Family Members

1. **Involvement and Participation of Individuals Receiving Services and Their Family Members:** CSBs, state facilities, and the Central Office agree to take all necessary and appropriate actions in accordance with State Board Policy 1040 to actively involve and support the maximum participation of individuals receiving services and their family members in policy formulation and services planning, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation.
2. **Involvement in Individualized Services Planning and Delivery by Individuals Receiving Services and Their Family Members:** CSBs and state facilities agree to involve individuals receiving services and, with the consent of individuals where applicable, family members, authorized representatives, and significant others in their care, including the maximum degree of participation in individualized services planning and treatment decisions and activities, unless their involvement is not clinically appropriate.
3. **Language:** CSBs and state facilities agree that they will endeavor to deliver services in a manner that is understood by individuals receiving services. This involves communicating orally and in writing in the preferred languages of individuals, including Braille and American Sign Language when applicable, and at appropriate reading comprehension levels.
4. **Culturally Competent Services:** CSBs and state facilities agree that in delivering services they will endeavor to address to a reasonable extent the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the geographic areas and populations that they serve.

Section 9: Communication

CSBs, state facilities, and the Central Office agree to communicate fully with each other to the greatest extent possible. Each partner agrees to respond in a timely manner to requests for information from other partners, considering the type, amount, and availability of the information requested.

Section 10: Quality Improvement

On an ongoing basis, the partners agree to work together to identify and resolve barriers and policy and procedural issues that interfere with the most effective and efficient delivery of public mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services.

Section 11: Reviews, Consultation, and Technical Assistance

CSBs, state facilities, and the Central Office agree, within the constraints of available resources, to participate in review, consultation, and technical assistance activities to improve the quality of services provided to individuals and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their operations.

Section 12: Revision

This is a long-term agreement that should not need to be revised or amended annually. However, the partners agree that this agreement may be revised at any time with the mutual consent of the parties. When revisions become necessary, they

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will be developed and coordinated through the System Leadership Council. Finally, either party may terminate this agreement with six months written notice to the other party and to the System Leadership Council.

Section 13: Relationship to the Community Services Performance Contract

This partnership agreement by agreement of the parties is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the current community services performance contract by reference.

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