



Virginia's Home and Community-Based Services MR Waiver

Joint Commission on Health Care
September 4, 2008

James Reinhard, M.D.
Commissioner, DMHMRSAS



Background

- The MR Home and Community-Based Waiver is a Medicaid-funded alternative to placement in one of Virginia's five state-operated training centers or other community operated ICF/MR for persons with intellectual disabilities.
- Virginia's Waiver started in January 1991.

MR Waiver Services

- Currently **7,615** individuals enrolled.
- More than **ten major categories** of service types, including residential, day support and vocational, therapeutic, and personal services.
- **Offering Choice** – Families choose between services provided by CSBs or by one of more than 500 private providers.
- **Case Management** – CSBs have over 400 case managers to oversee and coordinate services.

MR Waiver Eligibility Criteria

- **Diagnostic:** Documentation of mental retardation (or at developmental risk for those < 6)
- **Functional:** Meets at least two “Level of Functioning Survey” criteria
- **Financial:** Medicaid eligible per DSS

Person-Centered “Triage”

- Once found eligible, an individual’s urgency of need is assessed at the local level.
- Two waiting lists:
 1. Urgent Needs – **2,089** as of 8/21/08
 2. Non-urgent Needs – **2,137** as of 8/21/08

Person-Centered “Triage”

- CSBs allocate available slots to the individual with **the most urgent needs** at the time of slot availability.
- Per MR Waiver regulations, slots are unavailable to those on non-urgent needs list until all on urgent needs list have been served.

Urgent Needs List

| Urgent Needs Criteria | # persons on list | % of total |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| Unpaid caregiver can no longer provide care | 177 | 9 |
| Individual at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation | 191 | 9 |
| Primary caregiver(s) unable to care for individual due to own physical or psychiatric condition | 242 | 12 |
| Individual becoming homeless | 40 | 2 |
| Health/safety risk to someone in the home due to individual's behaviors or physical care needs | 535 | 27 |
| Primary caregiver(s) are 55 years or older | 827 | 41 |

Numbers reflect status on 8/26/08

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Slot Distribution to CSBs

DMHMRSAS uses a formula that assures:

- Each CSB gets at least one slot.
- A fair distribution of slots is made across the Commonwealth relative to the number of persons waiting on urgent needs list.

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Slot Assignment

- Each CSB has developed its own method of determining the most urgent need.
- The most urgent needs are determined at the local level by the CSBs, who know the families and circumstances best.
- Any slot that cannot be used by a CSB is available to the region for re-assignment.

To Eliminate Urgent Needs List

If **800 slots** were funded annually, the urgent needs waiting list would be eliminated by **July 1, 2017**.

Calculation based on:

- Average growth of the urgent needs list:
580 individuals per year
- Current urgent needs waiting list: 2,089
- Allocation of 200 slots approved for April 1, 2009