

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE *NEW* VIRGINIA ECONOMY

Executive Action

On April 8, 2014, Governor McAuliffe signed an executive order to continue the Governor's Task Force on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response. Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, this group continues to work to reform Virginia's mental health system.

Legislative Leadership

In April with the close cooperation of leaders of both parties, in the General Assembly, the Governor in April signed a comprehensive mental health reform package that provides mental health and public safety professionals with more tools to respond to Virginians in crisis. With the coordination of the state, community services boards, and other stakeholders, Governor McAuliffe will continue to pursue policies that ensure all Virginians receive the care they need.

Financial Commitment

Governor McAuliffe signed a budget in June that contained \$63 million in new funding for mental health services. Funding is designed to expand the array of community-based services available to individuals with mental illness, from early identification and prevention to crisis services, as well as intensive, facility-based care, if needed. Working with members of the General Assembly, the Governor ensured that access to effective mental health services for Virginians with mental illness would not be compromised despite challenging budget pressures.

Employment of People with Disabilities

Governor McAuliffe is proud to report that 4,087 individuals with significant disabilities became successfully employed in 2014 through Virginia's Vocational Rehabilitation program. This represents a 30 percent increase and nearly 1,000 more successful outcomes than in 2013. In addition, the program achieved a success rate of 61.7 percent, the highest in 25 years.