



Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation

## Legislative Agenda 2017 (Final Draft)

**STRENGTHEN community-based services to meet the existing and future critical needs of all Virginians with disabilities.**

### 1. **SUPPORT Jobs and Employment Supports for ALL Virginians**

Jobs are a priority in Virginia. Jobs for Virginians with disabilities must be a priority. 75% of Virginians with disabilities are without jobs. Like ALL Virginians - they want the opportunity to work, to earn wages, to purchase goods and services in their communities, and to become self-supporting tax payers.

- **RESTORE** and **SUPPORT** funding that provides critical employment supports and maintains jobs for Virginians with disabilities (LTESS/EES).
  - **RESTORE** and **SUPPORT** adequate funding for community-based Group Supported Employment.
  - **SUPPORT** state policies and procurement opportunities that increase equal opportunity and employment for Virginians with disabilities.
    - Fully implement Chapter 525, Statutes of 2016 (HB1288/Hope) to count contracts and subcontracts to Employment Services Organizations (ESOs) towards Virginia's SWaM goals.
    - Fully implement and certify ESOs as SWaM contractors as intended by Chapter 583, Statutes of 2012 (SB523/Hanger).
    - Increase employment of Virginians with disabilities within state government and through its state contracts by five percent (5%) within five years.
  - **ENSURE** that a full continuum and array of employment options are available to all individuals with disabilities consistent with the basic principle of informed choice included in the ADA and the Olmstead decision.
2. **SUPPORT provider rates based on service definitions, living wages for direct service professionals, and regional market-based costs that are adjusted annually to ensure statewide access to quality supports and community capacity for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement.**
3. **SUPPORT adequate funding for the DD Waiver Redesign.**
- Restore \$10M cut to Waiver waiting list funding.
  - Provide additional waiver slots to address the ID/DD Waiver waiting list crisis.
4. **SUPPORT increase in statewide availability of services for individuals with disabilities including individuals with psychiatric disorders and individuals with brain injury including veterans and wounded warriors.**
5. **PROMOTE language and/or influence action to diminish over-regulation and unfunded mandates that create unnecessary operational burden on community-based providers of services.**