

## Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services Notice of Public Hearing

### Improving Medicaid service benefits and delivery systems for individuals with Substance Use Disorders

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) will hold public hearings regarding future DMAS initiatives to improve Medicaid service benefits and delivery systems for individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), including ensuring that a sufficient continuum of care is available to effectively treat the physical, behavioral, and mental dimensions of SUD.

Virginia recognizes it has an important role as a payor for services provided to individuals with SUD. On September 26, 2014, Virginia Governor, Terry McAuliffe, put Executive Order 29 into place, creating the Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse. Dovetailing with Virginia's concern, in July of 2015, CMS issued [CMS letter, SMD # 15-003](#) to Medicaid directors, highlighting CMS' new service delivery opportunities for Medicaid members with SUD. The information contained in that letter significantly aligned with Virginia's belief that prescription drug and heroin overdoses are a public health and public safety crisis that is indiscriminately taking the lives of Virginians. Fully believing that there is work to be accomplished in this area, DMAS plans to seek CMS waiver authority using the guidance found in the CMS letter and the [recommendations created by the Governor's Task Force](#) to strengthen how Virginia: educates individuals, providers, and communities; treats those identified with SUD; collects and monitors data and health outcomes pertaining to these individuals; and enforces new policies and practices. Individuals who wish to participate in the public hearings are encourage to limit their oral comments to five minutes and to submit written statements, either at the hearing or as directed below.

#### Medicaid SUD Waiver Public Hearing Locations

Date and time: **Thursday, October 29, 2015** | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Location: Eastern Henrico Recreation Center  
1440 North Laburnum Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23223

Date and time: **Monday, November 2, 2015** | 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Location: Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center - Room 240  
One Partnership Circle  
Abingdon, VA 21210

DMAS also welcomes public comment on the entire SUD benefit delivery system design and is currently accepting public comments until November 2, 2015.

To submit comments by electronic mail, send comments to:

[SUD@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:SUD@dmas.virginia.gov)

To submit comments in writing by mail, send comments to:

Brian Campbell

Senior Policy Analyst Division of Integrated Care and Behavioral Services

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

600 E. Broad Street Suite 1300

Richmond, VA 23219