



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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COMMISSIONER

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Dear Partner,

The Discharge Assistance Program (DAP) was developed in 1997 to provide flexible resources for individuals who were unable to safely and efficiently discharge from state psychiatric hospitals. Since that time, it has primarily become a funding source for individuals who need residential care upon discharge. As the program has grown, the need to assure effective and consistent use of these funds has also grown. In 2023 the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) commissioned a rate study to review DAP funds and develop a rate structure for residential services. This allows consistency in the provision of services and funding allowed per placement.

The recommendation of the study was to utilize the Uniform Assessment Instrument (UAI) and an additional Behavioral Health checklist to determine the rate to be paid for service by individual. This method is intended to assure that the reimbursement for services matches patient's needs. Additionally, DBHDS chose to build in capacity for cost-of-living adjustments. While DAP is dependent on General Assembly allocation, the rate study did develop a mechanism to account for increases, pending funding availability.

The results of the study have been reported to the General Assembly as required by the budget allocation language. At this time, the study is public and can be accessed and reviewed. We understand there will be many questions and we will provide opportunities for discussion. DBHDS's first goal is to make training available related to the UAI as well as the rate tool. All individuals who receive DAP will transition to a new rate as determined by the tool by June 30, 2024. More information on the transition will come as soon as available.

For further questions you may contact Heather Rupe in the Office of Patient Continuum Services at heather.rupe@dbhds.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your continued service to the individuals supported by DAP.

Heather T Rupe