

RESOLUTION

EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL DOWNSIZING

WHEREAS, the Colonial Services Board (CSB) has been created by the counties of James City and York, and by the cities of Poquoson and Williamsburg as a Community Services Board under the authority provided to each by Chapters 10 and 11 of the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 37 of the Code of Virginia defines the responsibility for designating facilities to provide safety net services in the civil commitment process to the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS); and

WHEREAS, Eastern State Hospital has long served as the primary safety net for consumers through provision of acute and long-term psychiatric inpatient for individuals with mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Eastern State Hospital is building a new Adult Mental Health Facility that will reduce current non-geriatric adult inpatient bed capacity from in excess of 200 to 145 prior to August 2010 and civil admission capacity at Eastern State Hospital will virtually be eliminated as a result of this process; and

WHEREAS, the CSB requested in 2008 that a moratorium be placed on Eastern State Hospital downsizing until a reasonable process that included adequate and sustainable State-administered funding, and a reasonable time frame for building community service capacity to meet the needs of persons previously institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 request has not been honored by the Commonwealth of Virginia, despite the requirements for a community consensus and planning team as defined under §37.1-48.2 of the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, adequate community mental health capacity or funding does not exist today, nor can it now be developed by August 2010; and

WHEREAS, State-administered funds for Community Services Boards are being reduced at the same time these additional responsibilities are being imposed upon them; and

WHEREAS, the Code-defined safety net function of the DBHDS Commissioner is being administratively altered in a manner that will create unnecessary risk for individuals, families, agencies, and communities.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, hereby opposes this unfunded and inadequately-planned downsizing of Eastern State Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors calls upon the Governor-Elect and General Assembly members representing Hampton Roads to convene discussions immediately to develop a responsible plan for Eastern State Hospital downsizing that focuses on the

development of sufficiently-funded community-based services, including practical time frames for development of these services.

James G. Kennedy
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Sanford B. Wanner
Clerk to the Board

<u>SUPERVISOR</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
GOODSON	AYE
JONES	AYE
MCGLENNON	AYE
ICENHOUR	AYE
KENNEDY	AYE

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 8th day of December, 2009.

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