

Virginia Addiction & Recovery Council (VARC)

October 23, 2025 10:00am – 12:00 P.M.

Physical Location: Virginia Department of Social Services

5600 Cox Rd

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 256 970 741

756

Passcode: BcDjQp

Nathanael Rudney, Meeting Facilitator

Del. Adele McClure, Secretary

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONSNathanael Rudney, DBHDS

Attendance: We ask that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she has served

Participants:

Nathanael Rudney

Stephen Wade, VDSS

Madeline Berry, VA Cert. Board

Kelly Cannon, VHHA

Natalie Miller- Moore, VHHA

Patty Brown, DBHDS

Candace Roney, DBHDS

Sen. Jennifer Boysko

Del. Laura Cohen

Tanya Nesgoda, DBHDS

Charles Wilcox, VAAP

Peter Breslin, MD, Verity Addiction

Angela Brown, Western Tidewater CSB

LeNelle Mozell, VACSB SUD Council

Jennifer MacArthur, DCJS

Rebecca Holmes, Highlands CSB

Carolyn Hawley, Virginia Council for

Problem Gambling & VCU

Lynn Taylor, Indivior

April Miller, Alleghany Highlands CSB

Emily Witt, DMV

Colin Green, HHR/VDH

Allen Stewart, VADOC

Adam Rosatelli, VOAA

Anika Richburg, SAARA of Virginia

Tiffany George, DMAS

Delton Bisson, Del. Cohen's office

Keely Kieviet, VFHY

Virtual Participants

Don McCourtney, DBHDS

Kelly Bulin, Eastern Shore CSB

Del. Adele McClure

Kelsey Knowles, Shatterproof Treatment

Atlas

Nicky Fadley, Strength in Peers

Shawn Parker, Metro Treatment of Virginia

Michelle Satterlund, Macaulay Satterlund &

Sessa, PC

II. Review of Minutes from June 12, 2025 Meeting-Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS

- Motion introduced to accept minutes as published, motion seconded, none opposed

III. Old Business

- A. Opportunity for members of VARC to share summary of organizational changes or updates from their respective districts, agencies, and other entities- Nathanael

Rudney, DBHDS

- Chuck Wilcox shared about a lawsuit with the Eastern District of Virginia re: 14th amendment in relation to barrier crimes and challenging that the Virginia statute violated the Equal Protection Clause by treating people differently w/o rational basis. The challenge was successful and some takeaways from the court were that: Virginia

barrier crimes statute is incredibly complicated, restricted (only 23 out of 174 are screened), and many individuals have been grandfathered in and are operating in positions while having many of these barrier crimes.

- *Prince William Cnty and Region 2 just cut ribbon for crisis resource program (CRC). It's the first time having such a facility and also peer specialist programming in-house*
 - *River Ridge Recovery Academy in Waynesboro opened, 4th recovery high school in the state (3 was the number in RHRN so Virginia has exceeded that)*
 - *Sen. Boysko shared intention to reintroduce legislation to legalize psilocybin for medical use under a doctor's care similar to ketamine*
- B. Opportunity for members of VARC to debrief on developments regarding federal executive orders and impact on state agencies, organizations, and constituencies-
Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS
- *Nathanael Rudney shared updates regarding the federal executive orders increasing restrictions on harm reduction and emphasizing the need to end homelessness. Virginia did receive about \$500K in additional block grant technical assistance money which will go to bolster housing application technology including low income tax credit housing.*

IV. New Business

- A. Update on Chair of VARC..... *Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS*
- *Nathanael shared that Victor resigned as chair and so that position is vacant. Nominations will be solicited and an election will be held in December*
- B. DBHDS Updates Presentation- *Patricia Brown, Quality Assurance Manager, Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports, DBHDS*
- i. Updates to Reorganization
 - *Office of Substance Use Services is now Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports*
 - *Prevention/wellness, treatment, and substance use recovery support fall under this office*
 - *Recovery supports for mental health now fall under the Office of Mental Health*
 - *Changes were research-based and follow the continuum of care*
 - ii. SB838-
 - 1. Overall charge
 - *Introduced in January to amend code about recovery residences*

- *In July all recovery residences must be certified to operate in Virginia*
 - *Has to be accredited either through VARR or Oxford House*
- *Response to recovery houses not meeting a universal standards with some operating outside of the norm*
- *Should be able to see certifications on DBHDS website*

2. Work Group Convened

3. Report Due

iii. Indigent Bed Funding

- *Indigent funding has been moved from under VARR. It has now moved to RFA 720-5184. Residences were able to apply for funding and have to be accredited by June 30th*
- *Funding was distributed in an equitable manner and many factors were considered that extended beyond how many indigent beds were available.*
- *If funding is not utilized it will be reallocated as appropriate*

iv. Conditional Certification

C. SAARA Updates and Recovery Forum Summary- *Anika Richburg, Executive Director- SAARA of Virginia*

- *SAARA's mission is to transform Virginia communities through hope and education to advocate for addiction, prevention, treatment, and recovery*
- *Current priorities include focusing on barrier crime reform, mandatory probation reduction for those completing a peer recovery specialist training program, expanding traditional programs for those with substance use disorders, leaving jail, and working to establish more recovery high schools across Virginia.*

D. HSUIP: Hospital-based Substance Use Intervention Program- *Natalie Miller-Moore, Kelly Cannon- VHHA*

- VHHA Foundation supports collaboration, research, and education in health care.
We are on a mission to work with our hospital and health care partners to improve the overall health and well-being of the communities they serve and to be a guiding light on the road to a safer, more inclusive, and accessible health care system.
 - ED Bridge Learning Collaborative- Carilion Clinic originated
 - ED Bridge: Sentara, Mary Washington, INOVA
 - ED Bridge Expansion: Ballad, Valley Health, Augusta Health
- Promoting Resources- Virginia Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) 72 Hour Training announcements, Funding Opportunities for Peer Run Organizations. Trainings sponsored by known Peer Run organizations, Statewide Virginia trainings of benefit to PRS, Regional Virginia trainings to benefit PRS

V. Public Comment (5-minute speaking limit)

- *SAARA of Virginia will be doing annual recovery advocacy day on January 10th, January 27th*
- *Legislators encouraged members of the council and public to please contact their office or share ideas regarding potential legislation in advance of upcoming GA session*
- *Don McCourtney will be retiring in March, and the group is encouraged to put forth interested applicants to his position*

VI. Adjournment

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

Community Services Updated Organizational Structure

1

Division of Community Services

Office of Substance Use Services

Office Child and Family Services

Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness

Office of Recovery Support Services

Office of Community Housing

Office of Program Evaluation

Office of Adult Community Behavioral Health



Because the DATA says so!



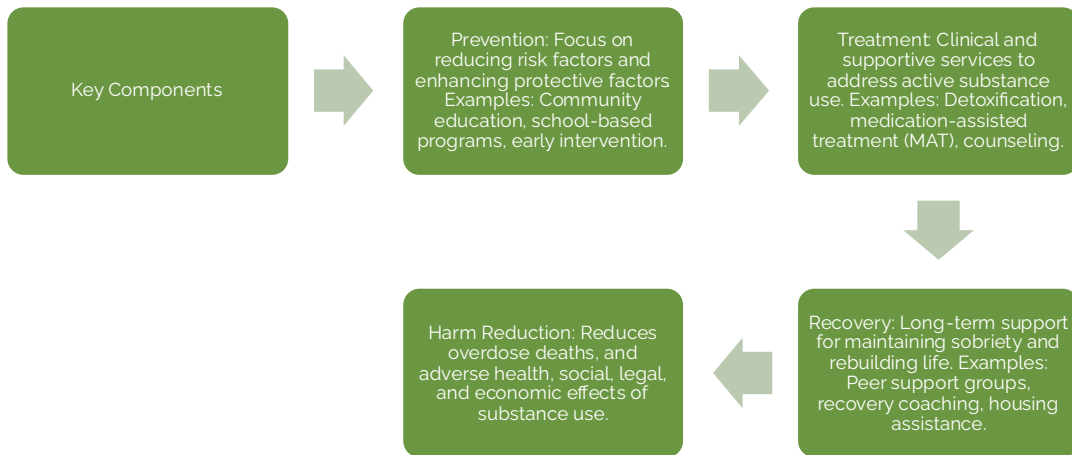
Best outcomes are through a holistic approach that addresses the complexity of substance use and recovery.



A continuum of care that integrates prevention, treatment, and recovery is needed to address all stages of the journey to wellness.



The integration of a continuum of care promotes long-term health, reduces return to use, and improves quality of life.



Benefits of Aligning Offices Across a Continuum



Fosters a single, unified office that streamlines efforts to address substance use and recovery holistically.



Creates seamless coordination across prevention, intervention, and recovery services, ensuring a continuum of care that eliminates silos and duplication of efforts.



Promotes integrating resources and expertise.



Optimizes funding, reduces administrative overhead, and strengthens the ability to respond to emerging challenges with a cohesive strategy.



Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Support Vision Statement

To create an integrated system of care where every individual and community affected by addiction has access to comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based practices and supports.



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Office for Addiction, Recovery and Wellness Supports

Director: Candace Roney

Deputy Director: Colleen Hughes

- Indigent Bed Funding
- Recovery Residence
- Conditional Certification
- SU Peer Billing
- SU Peer Services

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- January 2025 SB838 was introduced to amend and reenact § 37.2-431.1.
- April 2, 2025, SB838 was enacted with Governor's Recommendation:

"Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; recovery residences; certification required; penalty; work group. Changes the existing civil penalty for a violation of law related to the operation of recovery residences to a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to issue conditional certification to certain recovery residences. The bill also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to (i) make recommendations related to oversight and transparency for recovery residences and (ii) develop credentialing guidelines for recovery residences. The bill directs the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025."
- July 1, 2025, All Recovery Residences must be certified to operate in Virginia.
- November 1, 2025, recommendations are due to the General Assembly from the work group.

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A large, white, stylized 'Y' logo is positioned on the left side of the slide. The 'Y' is composed of thick, rounded strokes. The top of the 'Y' is a diamond shape. The two arms of the 'Y' extend outwards and then curve downwards. The stem of the 'Y' is a straight vertical line. The logo is set against a solid blue background that occupies the left half of the slide.

HSUIP: Hospital-based Substance Use Intervention Program

Virginia Peer Recovery Specialists +
ED Bridge Expansion

NATALIE MILLER-MOORE, KELLY CANNON

Grants Acknowledgment

This project is supported by Award # ALN 21.027 awarded by the Virginia Department of Health with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This project is also supported by Award # 1H79FG001391-01 awarded by the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

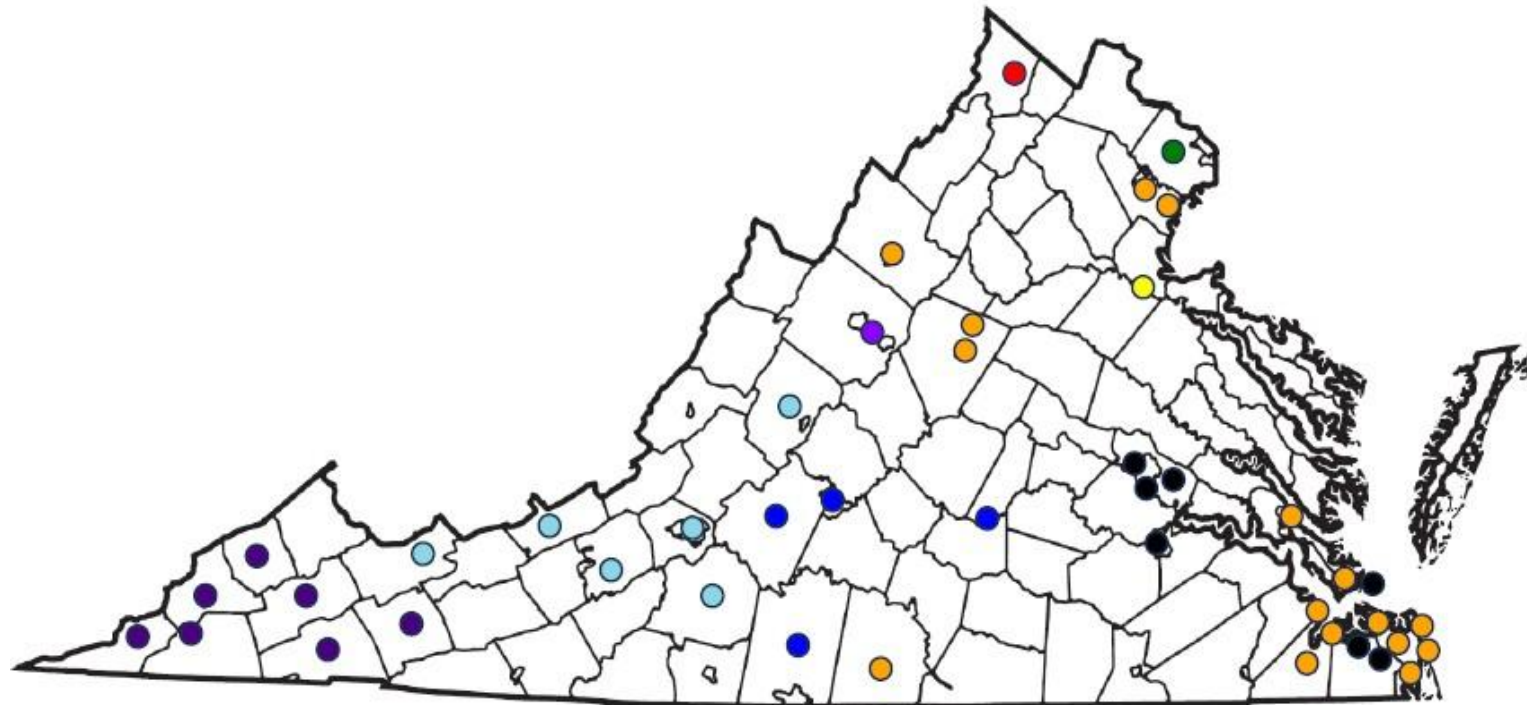
The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the federal government, or any grant-making component.



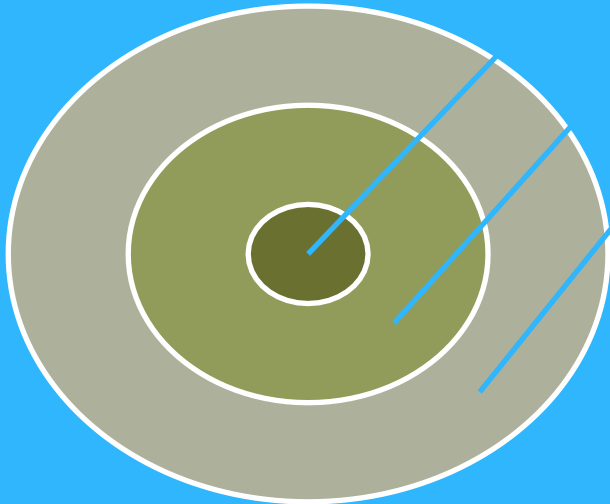
VHHA Foundation, Virginia's hospital and health care philanthropic resource, is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Virginians.

VHHA Foundation supports collaboration, research, and education in health care. We are on a mission to work with our hospital and health care partners to improve the overall health and well-being of the communities they serve and to be a guiding light on the road to a safer, more inclusive, and accessible health care system.

Virginia ED Bridge Hospitals

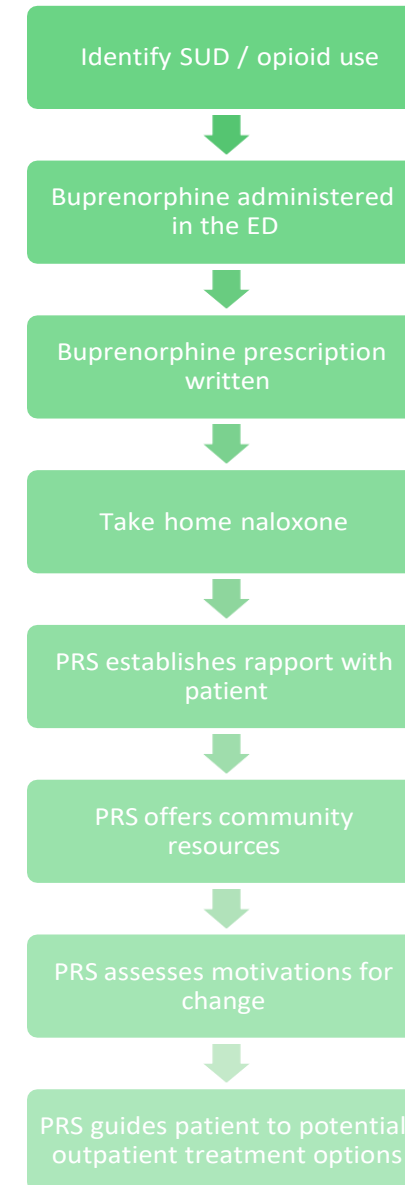
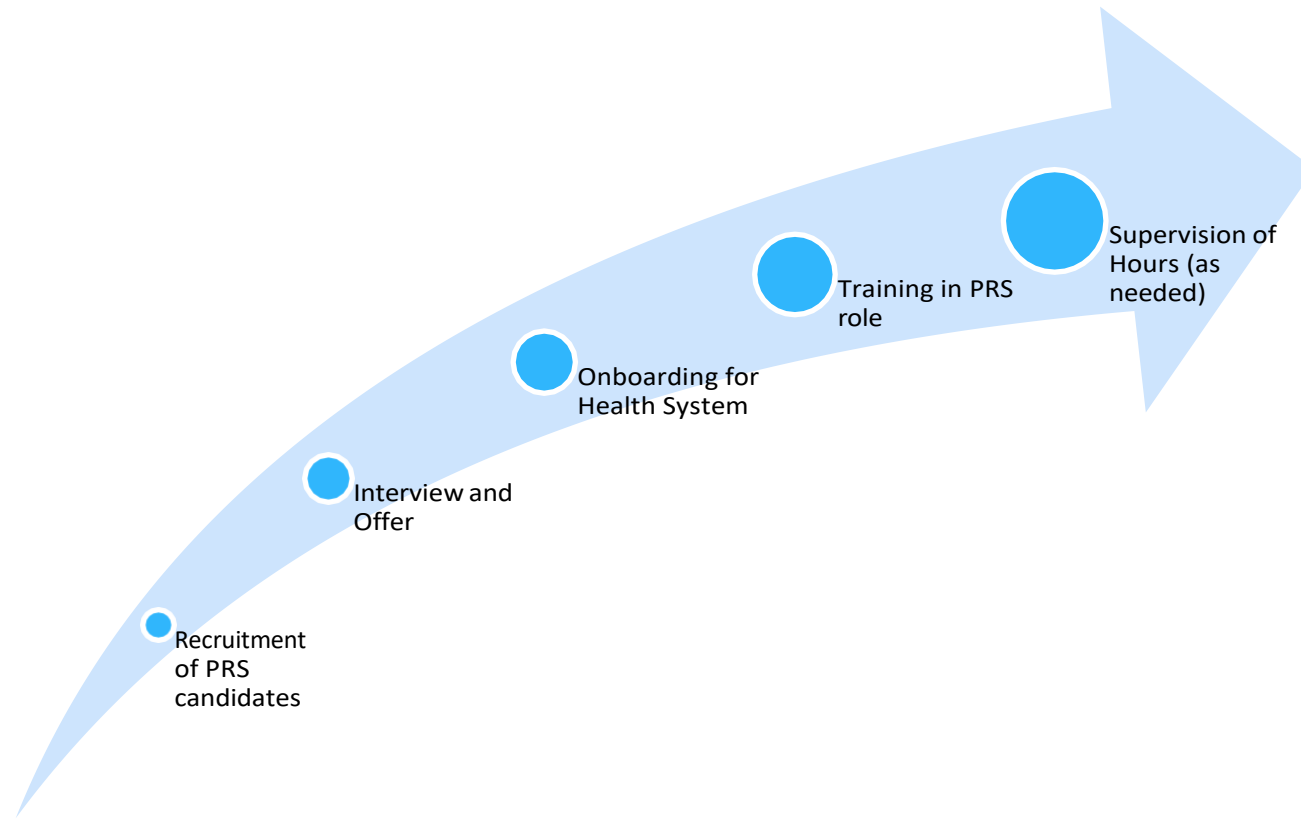


ED Bridge Learning Collaborative

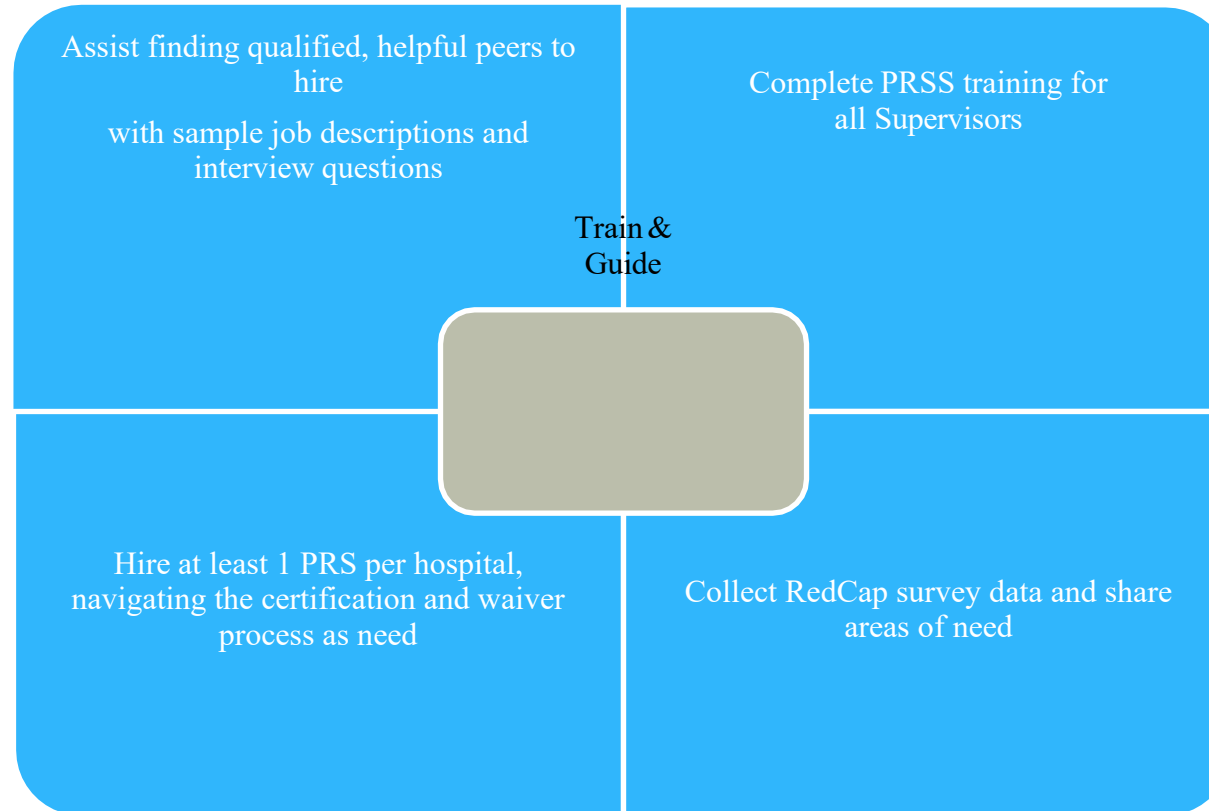


- Carilion Clinic originated
- ED Bridge: Sentara, Mary Washington, INOVA
- ED Bridge Expansion: Ballad, Valley Health, Augusta Health

Intersection of PRS and ED Bridge protocol



Train & Guide



Successful Sustainability



Continued Education



Sharing Resources



Training

- Documentation
- Community Provider
- Registration Process

VIRGINIA'S REGISTERED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST PROCESS

A big picture overview that begins with people with a year or more in recovery from substance use or mental health challenges who want to share their story with people who are ready for change.

72 HOUR TRAINING

DBHDS TRAINING

Complete the training, offered virtually, hybrid and in person across the state

SITE HOURS

EXPERIENCE HOURS

Find a site to earn 500 hours of peer support, with tasks / services that count towards those hours

SUPERVISION

SITE SUPERVISION

PRS Supervisors guide and assist with best practices, offering supervision, training and feedback and 25 hours in the four required domains.

CERTIFICATION

PASS THE EXAM

Take the exam after hours and training are completed, pass and receive the certificate. A CPRS is able to "practice" but not bill.

REGISTRATION

BOARD OF COUNSELING

Register with Virginia Department of Health Professions Board of Counseling
Background check as part of the application

BILLABLE SERVICES

CMS / MEDICAID

Once registration is complete, health system can bill for PRS services, using applicable codes



This is where the "screenable barrier crimes" process comes in, as applicable.

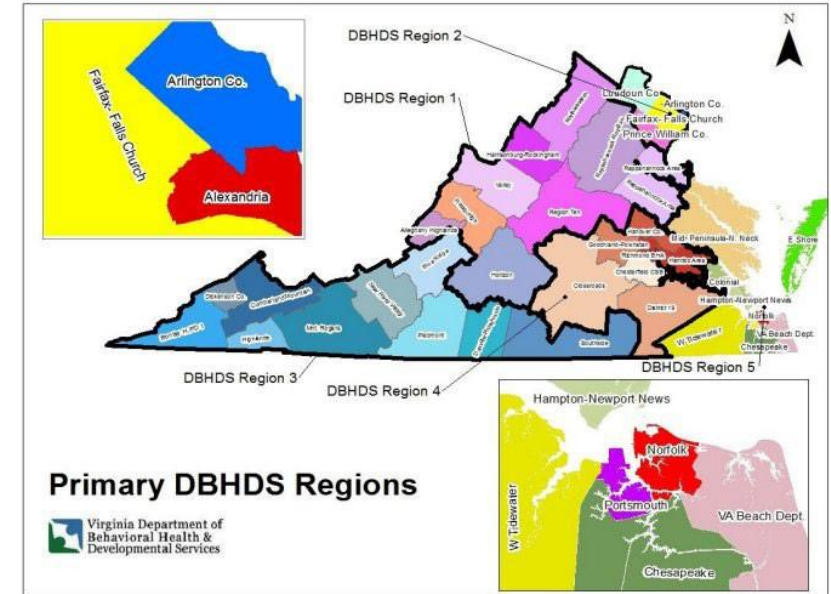
Peer Support In The Workplace & Avoiding Peer Drift

Office of Recovery Services
Kim Boyd, MS, CSAC, CPRS, QMHP

Reporting in CHRIS					
The learner will increase their understanding of the Computerized Human Rights Information System (CHRIS) and the Human Rights Regulations regarding human rights complaints and reporting.					
Please register for the course by selecting the link for the corresponding date and time, and completing the registration. Please do not share links received from your registration. Each participant must register individually and attend on the link provided following their registration.					
Jan. 9 th @ 9a – 12p	March 13 th @ 9a – 12p	May 1 st @ 9a – 12p	July 10 th @ 9a – 12p	Sept. 4 th @ 9a – 12p	Nov. 6 th @ 9a – 12p
CHRIS 1.9.25	CHRIS 3.13.25	CHRIS 5.1.25	CHRIS 7.10.25	CHRIS 9.4.25	CHRIS 11.6.25
Investigating Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation					
This training is designed as an overview of the regulatory and investigative process, specific to the investigation of abuse and neglect.					
Please register for the course by selecting the link for the corresponding date and time, and completing the registration. Please do not share links received from your registration. Each participant must register individually and attend on the link provided following their registration.					
Jan. 23 rd @ 9a – 12p	March 27 th @ 9a – 12p	May 8 th @ 9a – 12p	July 24 th @ 9a – 12p	Sept. 18 th @ 9a – 12p	Dec. 11 th @ 9a – 12p
ANE 1.23.25	ANE 3.27.25	ANE 5.8.25	ANE 7.24.25	ANE 9.18.25	ANE 12.11.25

Promoting Resources

- Virginia Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) 72 Hour Training announcements
- Funding Opportunities for Peer Run Organizations
- Trainings sponsored by known Peer Run organizations
- Statewide Virginia trainings of benefit to PRS
- Regional Virginia trainings to benefit PRS



Virginia DBHDS Barrier Crimes Overview

[Peer Support page summary](#)

June 2021 [Study Recommendations](#)

Full packet: download [here](#)

Step 1: Find the crime in the list.

Step 2: If it is “screenable,” proceed, but it must also meet these requirements:

- The crime has to have been **substantially related** to individual’s substance abuse or mental illness.
- Individuals must have completed all prison or jail terms
- No current probation or parole supervision
- No pending charges

VIRGINIA PEER SPECIALISTS NETWORK

[Home](#) [Job Board](#) [Resources](#) [Podcast](#) [Subscribe](#)

Virginia Peer Recovery
Specialist Network

[LINK](#) to
Network

[Link](#) to
[Job Board](#)

PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST

Job and Internship Board

Find opportunities for employment or earning hours
towards certification

Take your next step or
earn your hours

[SEARCH](#)

Current HSUIP Status



HSUIP Timeline

Valley Health

Started September 30th, 2024 Hired 1st Peer August 2025

Augusta Health

Started September 30th, 2024 Hired 1st Peer February 2025

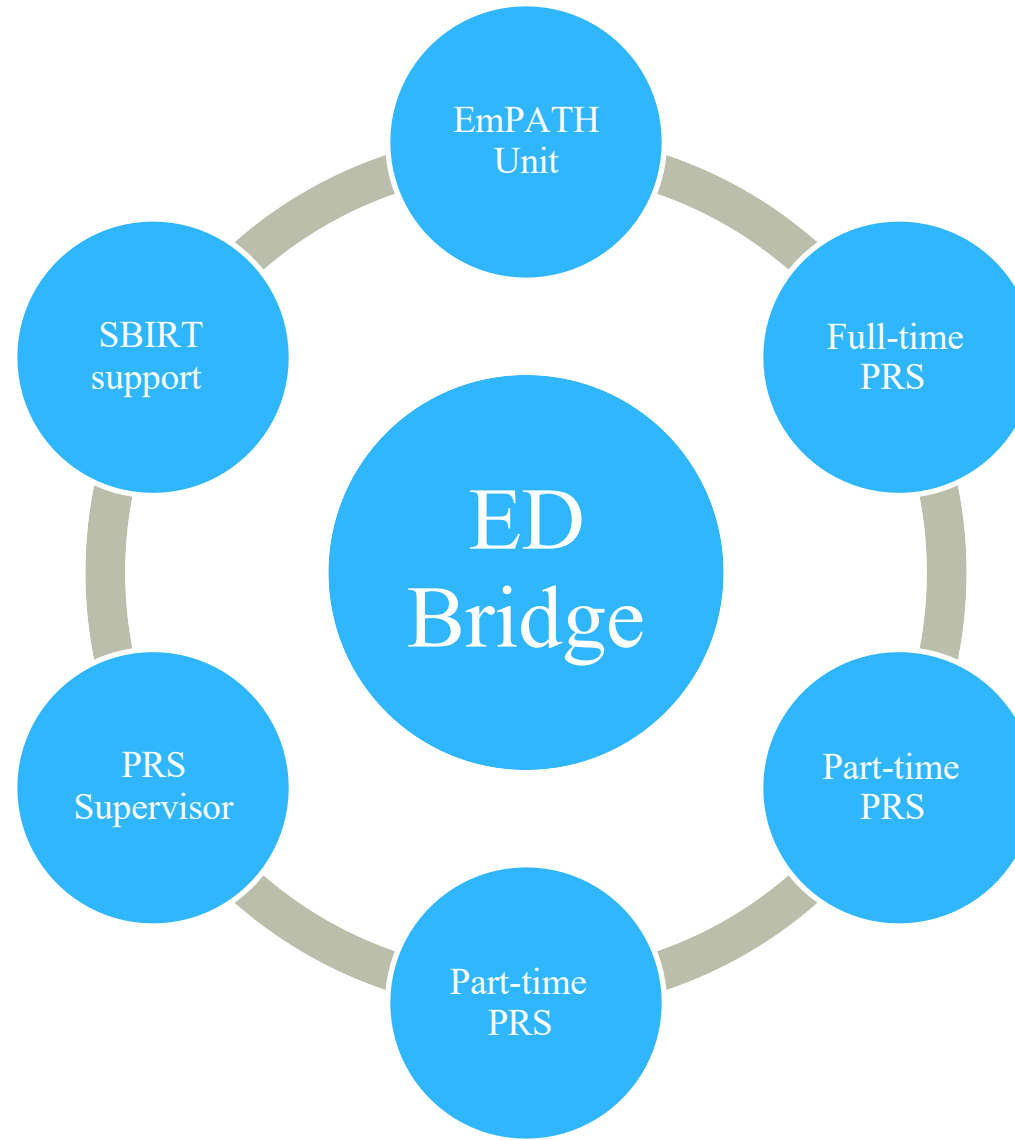
Ballad Health

Started September 1st, 2025 Hired 1st Peer October 2025

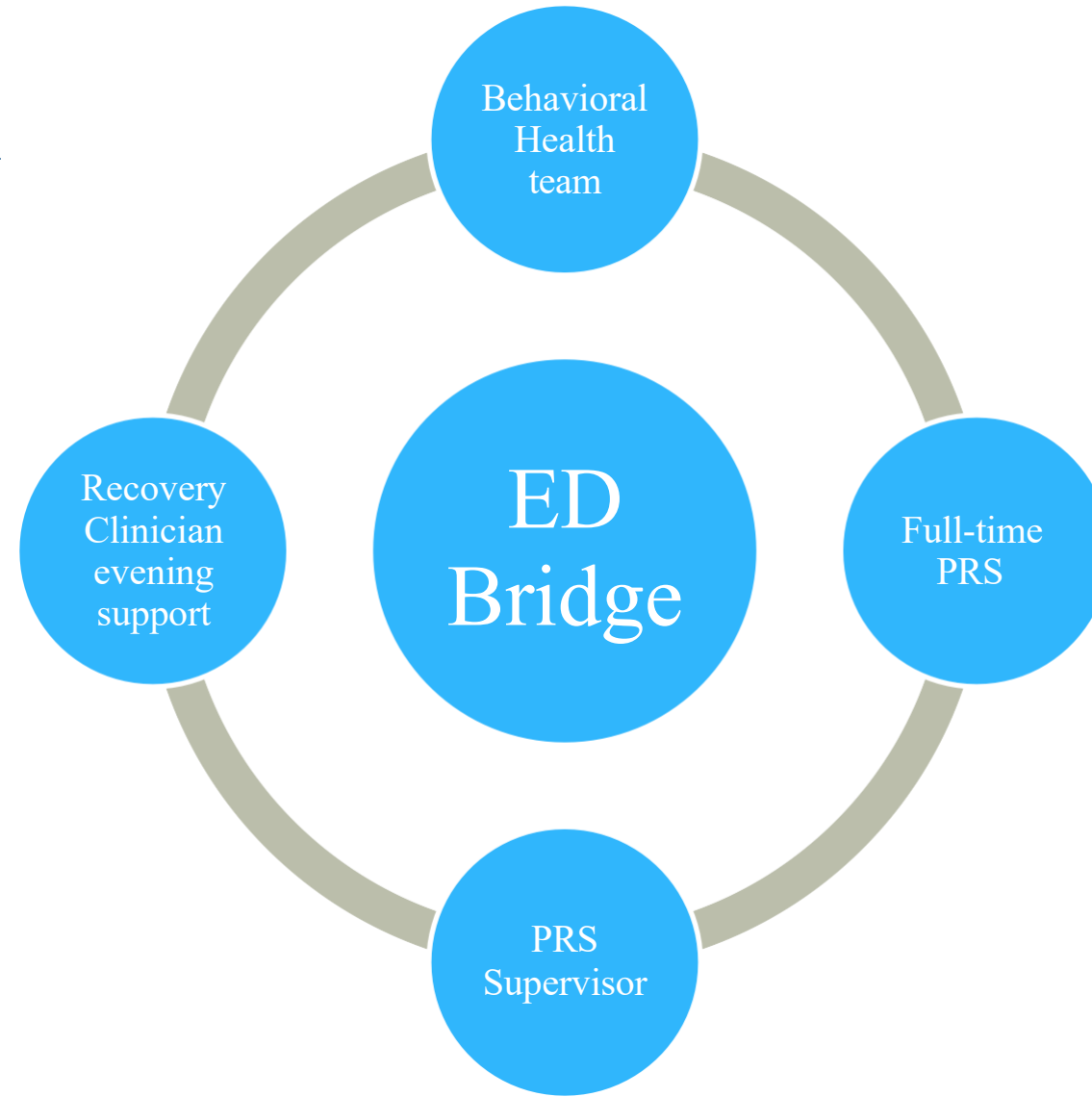
Meeting Rhythm

ED Bridge calls Monthly 2nd week of the month
Carilion ED Bridge Learning Collaborative calls Quarterly
Carilion Clinic ED Bridge virtual training sessions / webinars Monthly in 2025
HSUIP Supers Call 4th week of the month
Project Director Check In 3rd week of the month
VHHAF Community Health Worker Community of Practice Sessions Monthly

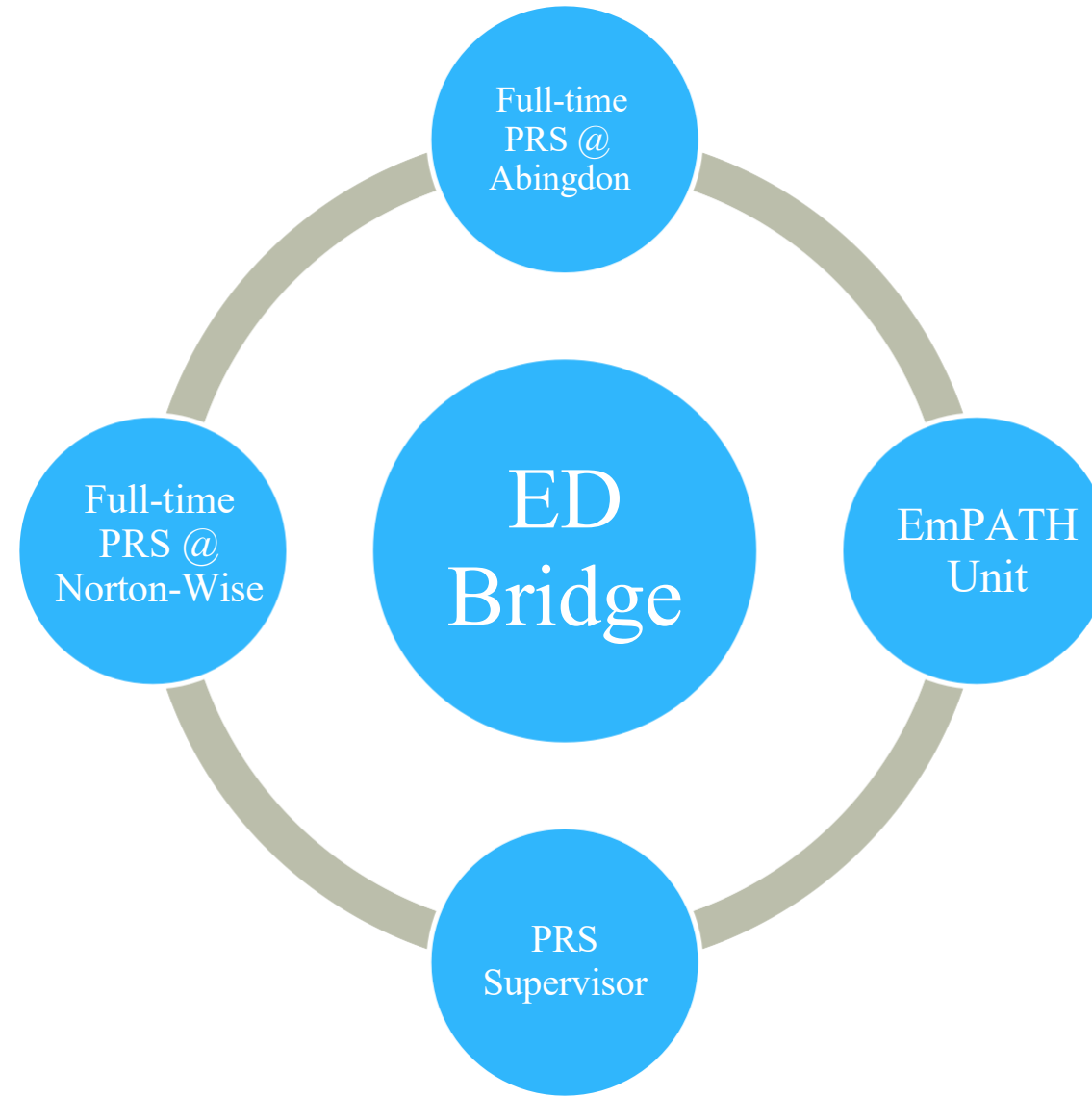
Valley Health



Augusta Health



Ballad Health



Shifts in Original Plan

- One health system withdrew in February 2025, citing grant anxiety and staffing issues
- There are more Certified Peers available than originally estimated. Supervision of hours rarely needed.
- Some HR hurdles related to posting timelines, requirements, lived experience, barrier crimes, and certification process.
- Peer certification doesn't transfer across state lines. No-
- cost extension for one year.

Offering additional resources

- Collected ahead of time in a resource library
 - Available as needed
- Project Director available to help discern best matches
- Project Director to seek additional training as needed
 - Encouragement!
- **Peer Supervisor** support
 - Within the HSUIP From
 - Carilion TTAC From
 - Project Director
 - SAMHSA Peer Library
- Books
- Training
- Articles
- News
- Community organizations
- Introductions
- Workshops
- Events

Training Clearinghouse

- ❑ Training options collected and shared
- ❑ Topical training including substance use disorder and medication
- ❑ Professional development opportunities
- ❑ Skill building / Coaching
- ❑ ED Bridge Toolkit from Carilion Clinic

Keeping the grant requirements on track



Timelines

Reminders on deadlines
Data submission



HR webinar



Peer meetings with the larger ED Bridge group (7 systems)



Peer meetings with the HSUIP group (3 systems)



Peer meetings the VHHA statewide Community Health Workers group



Budget help from VHHA



Billing / Coding webinar

Thank you! Let's Collaborate!

Natalie Miller-Moore, Project Director

nmillermoores@vhha.com

Kelly Cannon, CEO VHHA Foundation

kcannon@vhha.com