

Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

**New MIRC Comment** 

1 message

Reply-To: To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 10:29 PM

First Name - Joanna

Last Name - Walker

**Organization Name -**

Comment -

Please Expand Medicaid.pdf

October 15, 2013

Please Expand Medicaid!

I am a family support group leader for families which have someone diagnosed with a serious mental illness. Many of our loved ones are over 26 do not have any health insurance. My own son, who has Psychotic Disorder, had a psychotic break in May, shortly before aging out of my plan. He has applied for Medicaid, but the bar is very high in Virginia, and single men don't often get covered. He has applied for SSDI and was turned down. We are applying again. In the meantime, if he has to be hospitalized, he will go to the emergency room as indigent. He has not worked in three years, because of his illness.

If Medicaid were available, the mentally ill would be able to get the therapy and medications that they need for their recovery. Without medicine and/or therapy some mentally ill people can become a problem for their families and for the community.

Please do the right thing and expand Medicaid!

Thank you,

Joanna Walker