



New MIRC Comment

1 message

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 2:04 PM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Robin

Last Name - Gahan

Organization Name - Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness

Comment - The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, along with our partners, support the important task before the bi-partisan Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC) to approve changes and expand Virginia's Medicaid system, for the benefit of hundreds of thousands of Virginia residents and families, including those most vulnerable experiencing homelessness. There has been increased national, state, and local attention to address housing and homelessness including the federal goal to end Veteran homelessness by 2015, family homelessness by 2020, and the recently met state goal set by Governor McDonnell to reduce homelessness by 15 percent. However, access to health care is an equally critical resource for those families and individuals experiencing homelessness faced with barriers to healthcare that are further exacerbated by their housing crisis. We can't wait any longer to meet the health needs of up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians that would be eligible. Access to screening and preventive care means improvements in the quality of life, ability to work, and financial and housing stability resulting in reductions to many systems serving low-income people. This expansion group would include chronically homeless adults living on the streets that are costly and inappropriate users of hospitals, families with children seeking stable housing, and youth with serious mental illness who currently age out of Medicaid and do not meet the threshold for social security disability. Expansion not only benefits those most in need, but also our entire state through significant investment of federal dollars in Virginia that would result in the creation of 30,000 jobs over the next 10 years. We believe it is fair and reasonable to require Medicaid reforms that will lower costs, enhance quality of services, AND meet the increasing needs of Virginians. However in creating reform we must also eliminate any obstacles to providing insurance for low-income Virginians who need it most. We support the work of Virginia's Medicaid Commission, and urge it to adopt health care innovation and Medicaid expansion as quickly as possible.