



VIRGINIA BRAIN INJURY COUNCIL

April 24, 2025

Kathryn A. Hayfield, Commissioner
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23229

RE: Recommendations for Dissemination of New State General Funds for Brain Injury Services

Dear Commissioner Hayfield:

On behalf of the Virginia Brain Injury Council, I respectfully submit the Council's funding recommendations for the newly allocated state general funds for brain injury services. The Council acknowledges that a final state budget has not been approved. These recommendations are flexible in that they address funding that the General Assembly appropriated and the potentially reduced amount proposed Governor Youngkin.

In making these recommendations, the Council reviewed the plans developed by the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Services Providers (the Alliance) and the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV). The Council feels strongly that expanding services for individuals living with brain injury across the state and retaining qualified, experienced staff are important for the brain injury system. The Council also was impressed by the collaboration among members of the Alliance and BIAV in developing their distribution formulas and plans, as well as their successful advocacy this year.

- **Workforce Retention Funds (Item 314 #1c/\$600,000):** This funding is intended to address current workforce compensation within Virginia's brain injury service system. The Council endorses the recommendations made by the Alliance and BIAV to distribute fund proportionally based on the number of employees currently employed within the state funded workforce. If the funding is reduced by 50%, there will be an equivalent proportional reduction per employee.

Strengthen and Expand (Item 314 #2c/\$750,000): The Council endorses the recommendations made by the Alliance and BIAV to enhance existing services and add new services to achieve greater engagement, outcome, and service capacity for people with brain injury. Council recommends that the appropriated funds be distributed among the nine state-funded brain injury providers, using the plan developed by the Alliance and BIAV.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Kara Keuthan, MD, Chair
Virginia Brain Injury Council