

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Implementation of STEP-VA, 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extending implementation deadline ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending clause 3 of Chapter 607 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly to require community services boards to initiate the provision of all STEP-VA services by July 1, 2022. (Recommendation 8)

STEP-VA planning ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act (i) directing the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to submit requirements, performance measures, and funding allocation plans for each of the remaining steps of STEP-VA to the staff and chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Secretary of Finance, and (ii) directing the Department of Accounts to withhold appropriated funds for each of the remaining steps of STEP-VA until DBHDS and the community services boards demonstrate that planning is complete, including requirements, performance measures, and funding allocation plans. (Recommendation 10)

CSB Funding, 2019

POLICY OPTION

Funding allocation strategy ► The General Assembly could consider including language in the Appropriation Act (i) establishing specific objectives for the extent to which funding that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) allocates to community services boards (CSBs) should support consistent services statewide versus services that address each community's needs and (ii) directing DBHDS, in collaboration with the CSBs, to develop and submit a proposed funding allocation strategy to meet these objectives to the Joint Subcommittee on Mental Health Services in the Twenty-First Century. (Option 1)