

**Governor's Task Force on School and Campus Safety:
Mental Health Work Group**

**Joint Commission on Health Care HL/HS Subcommittee
October 22, 2013**

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Assistant Commissioner
for Behavioral Health Services

Mental Health Workgroup

Chaired by Attorney General and Secretary of HHR

22 members , 4 *ex officio* members

- State and local mental health, health, education, law enforcement, families, consumers

Four Meetings:

- January 17
- January 24
- February 21
- March 28

All materials, including public comment, minutes, presentations and recommendations , distributed and posted on agency web sites

Governor's Task Force on School and Campus Safety

Governor's Executive Order #56

Co-Chairs:

- Secretary of Public Safety
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Total Members = 42

Members of the General Assembly
Education (K-12, college),
Cross-secretariat agencies (HHR, Public Safety, Education)
Law Enforcement (state and local)
Families and students

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Governor's Task Force on School and Campus Safety

- **Convened: January 14, 2013**
Final meeting: September 23, 2013
- **Three Workgroups:**
 1. Education
 2. Public Safety
 3. Mental Health
- Initial report to the Governor January 31, 2013
with funding recommendations for 2013 Session
- Letter from the Governor to legislature February 1

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January 17: Presentation on the Mental Health Perspective by DBHDS Commissioner:

- Persons with mental illness are only slightly more likely to commit violent acts than the general population.
- “Most people who are violent are not mentally ill and most people who are mentally ill are not violent.”
John Monahan, UVA

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Many mass killers have similar characteristics:
– Isolated, alienated, angry, suicidal, mentally ill, history of hostility, conflict, violence or threats.

Few, if any, were receiving or cooperating with mental health treatment.

Many, but not all, gave some warning signals of their distress and alienation.

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The work of the **Virginia Commission on Mental Health Law Reform** initiated by the Supreme Court of Virginia in October 2006, followed by the need to respond to the tragedy at Virginia Tech, led to comprehensive, bipartisan legislation:

- Improved civil commitment standard
- Extended ECO period to up to six hours
- Improved TDO and commitment processes
- mandatory outpatient commitment
- Funding of mental health services @ \$17.3 Million/year

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Recommendations

- Suicide Prevention Program
- Mental Health First Aid Program
- CIT Law Enforcement Assessment Centers
- CSB Child/Adolescent Outpatient Services
- CSB Adult Outpatient Services
- Temporary Detention Order Extension

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2013 General Assembly Response

Suicide Prevention	\$500,000 ongoing
Mental Health First Aid	\$600,000 ongoing
CIT Law Enforcement Assessment Centers	\$900,000 ongoing
Other MH: Children's Crisis Services Discharge Assistance Program Early Intervention	