



**HANOVER COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES
BOARD -
Legislative Advocacy
Committee**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
BOARD**
Mary Butler Eggleston - Chair
Citizen
Ryan M. Hudson
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

February 12, 2026
4:30 PM

Members Present:

Mary Butler Eggleston, Johna Jones, Carol McDaid

Staff Members Present:

Elena Hernandez, Ivy Sager, Bret Schardein, Jennifer Sheppard

Additional Attendees:

None

Presenters:

None

Location:

Ashland Board room, 12300 Washington Highway, Ashland, VA 23005

Call to Order

Carol McDaid, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Consideration of Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 5, 2026, meeting stand approved as presented.

Citizens' Time

None

Presentations and Agenda Items

A. School-based Mental Health Advocacy Strategies

The Committee began by asking for updates on the status of the school-based mental health program. Ms. Sager, Mr. Schardein and Ms. Sheppard provided the following information and addressed questions from Committee members:

- When the proposed school budget was announced on Jan. 20, information about elimination of \$500,000 for contractual mental health services was shared and included in the presentation. A ParentSquare message regarding this information was also sent out that evening. This eliminated funding includes all 5 clinician positions previously funded by HCPS (four clinicians that were added with state grant funding plus the clinician at Patrick Henry HS that had previously been included in the school budget). CSB funding covers one clinician and one clinical supervisor; that funding is not in jeopardy.
- Mr. Schardein and Ms. Sager met with the impacted staff on Jan. 21, which was followed by a meeting with Mr. Budesky on Jan. 30.
- Ms. Sager noted that efforts to develop shared messaging before the proposed budget was announced were not successful.
- County Administration monitored the progress of School Board budget deliberations related to the SBMH program. Once it was known that there was high likelihood of the program funding not being included in the School Board's final budget, CSB staff began preparing program alternatives.
- School staff and parents provided public comments at the School Board budget public hearing and the Feb. 11 Board of Supervisor's meeting. It is anticipated that CSB staff and others will attend the Feb. 23 CSB Board meeting to provide public comments regarding this issue.
- As directed by County Administration after the proposed school budget was announced, CSB staff are considering other funding options and alternate programming. At this point, funding has been identified for 2 of the 5 clinicians that are no longer funded through HCPS. Consideration of alternative programming is underway.
- Ms. Sheppard and one of the clinicians participated in an interview with NBC12 today. Ms. Sheppard has also been responding to a significant number of data requests regarding the program.

Committee members then discussed the proposed state budget amendment that was submitted by Del. Josh Thomas. This amendment seeks to include "in-person" services alongside telehealth to ensure school districts have options for mental health services. It was a prior change in this budget language that caused Hanover to no longer be eligible for the state grant funding. Ms. McDaid asked about the other draft language that specifically included CSBs as being able to provide this service. Ms. Sager shared more information about her discussions with both the Executive Director of Goochland-Powhatan CSB (who worked with Del. Thomas's office to patron the amendment) and Jennifer Faison with the VACSB. The group discussed opportunities to support this proposed budget amendment if it is included in the House budget. The chair expressed appreciation for Mr. Walter sharing information about the amendment with Hanover's delegates. It was also noted that even if this amendment is adopted, there will likely be a delay in funding availability, which means it may not benefit the coming school year.

The Committee then discussed inviting school board members to attend the upcoming CSB Board meeting and agreed this could be a valuable opportunity. Ms. Eggleston offered to contact Mr. Davis to ask him if, as chair to the BOS, he would be willing to invite and encourage School Board members to attend the CSB board meeting. Mr.

Schardein offered to speak with Mr. Budesky first regarding this idea and the possibility of scheduling meetings with Board of Supervisor and School Board members focused on discussing school-based mental health services. The Committee clarified that encouraging School Board members to attend the upcoming meeting would be so they could hear the comments and maybe it would open the door for more conversations.

Ms. Sager indicated that she will monitor the budget amendment and provide updates to the committee. If it goes to the budget conference committee, it will be important to have targeted advocacy efforts to ensure it is included in the final state budget. Ms. McDaid offered that having a letter of support for this amendment from the Board of Supervisors might be helpful for that advocacy.

B. Open Discussion and Next Steps

Ms. McDaid provided brief highlights regarding the recent Virginia Association of Community Services Boards Conference. No other topics were discussed.

Other Items

Since this was a called meeting, the Committee agreed to meet on the previously scheduled next meeting date.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Atlee Commons.