1937 - 2017: Celebrating 80 years of Improving Mental Health Services in Virginia
Service Highlights

- Monitored 50 bills related to mental health during the 2017 state legislative session. Provided public comment stressing the need for access to services and collaboration among systems of care.

- Appointed to serve on 3 new legislative study committees created during the 2017 state legislative session.

- Participated on the advisory group for the Governor’s Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, researching ways to reduce inappropriate incarceration, increase access to services and enhance public safety.

- Joined with other organizations to request a federal investigation into the tragic death of someone with a serious mental illness in a Virginia jail.

- Served as administrator for Virginia’s Behavioral Health Advisory Council, which advises the state on gaps in services and appropriation of federal block grant funds for behavioral health programming.

- Publicized *The State of Mental Health in America 2017*, national MHA’s study, which showed Virginia ranking 38th among the states in access to mental health care.

- Presented “How Peer Support is Transforming Mental Health Care,” a dinner program in September, attended by diverse stakeholders and interested citizens.

- Assisted two area hospitals with peer support advisory services and helped orient new staff.

Warm Line

The peer-run Warm line provides support for callers feeling isolated or stuck, or in need of information and community resources. Warm Lines can help prevent a crisis situation and repeat hospitalization.

- Served 300 people in recovery last year through our non-emergency Warm Line for listening and referrals.

“… I have PTSD, and [the Warm Line] did so much to help me. I just want you to know how much I appreciate the help…, because there were times when I was so depressed I might have considered suicide. Thank you.”
Calendar Year 2016 Financial Schedules

2016 Revenue $240,631

- State contract
- Contributions
- Service Fees, Memberships
- Other Income

2016 Expenses $235,738

- Program Services
- Supporting Services

Note: The $85,000 grant for trauma-informed recovery education for crime survivors is reflected in our 2017 budget.

Recovery Education Programs

- Started new trauma-informed recovery education program for victims of crime with support from an ALKERMES Inspiration Grant. MHAV was one of only 15 agencies across the country to receive this grant.

- Provided multi-day recovery education to 40 people through our Consumer Empowerment and Leadership Training, Roots of Resiliency and other recovery trainings around Virginia.

- Partnered with ChildSavers to train all MHAV staff and facilitators on training others in Trauma and Resilience.

- Presented workshops on mindfulness, music and recovery, de-escalation and active listening, and exhibited at events and state association conferences.

- Maintained the Virginia Advance Directives (VAD) website, providing information about advanced directives for mental health care to 8,000 users a year.

Virginia Peer Recovery Specialist Network

- Organized the Virginia Peer Recovery Specialist Network, with regional continuing education and networking for the state’s growing workforce of Certified Peer Recovery Specialists.

- Developed a new website www.virginiapeerspecialistnetwork.org as a go-to resource for peer specialist job openings, trainings and learning resources, a Facebook group and a mailing list with over 280 members. Research shows these positions help decrease incidents of mental health crisis.
Mental Health America of Virginia is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving Virginians in recovery, with wellness and healing as the foundational tenets behind our person-centered educational programs. We are the state representative for a national network that includes eight community-based affiliates in the Commonwealth.