



Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health &
Developmental Services

Alternative Transportation Program

DBHDS System Leadership Council Presentation

June 17, 2019

Transportation Options in the Code of Virginia

- Pursuant to §37.2-810 of the Code of Virginia, the magistrate issuing an ECO or TDO specifies the “*primary law enforcement agency*” and jurisdiction (e.g., police department or sheriff) to execute the order and provide transportation.
- Law allows transportation to be provided by “*alternative transportation provider*” under certain conditions. However, to date, this option has not been frequently utilized.
- Alternative transportation provider may be a “*person, facility, or agency, including a family member or friend of the person....., a representative of the community services board [CSB], or other transportation provider with personnel trained to provide transportation in a safe manner*”

Funding for Alternative Transportation

Item 311 E. of the 2018 *Appropriation Act* states:

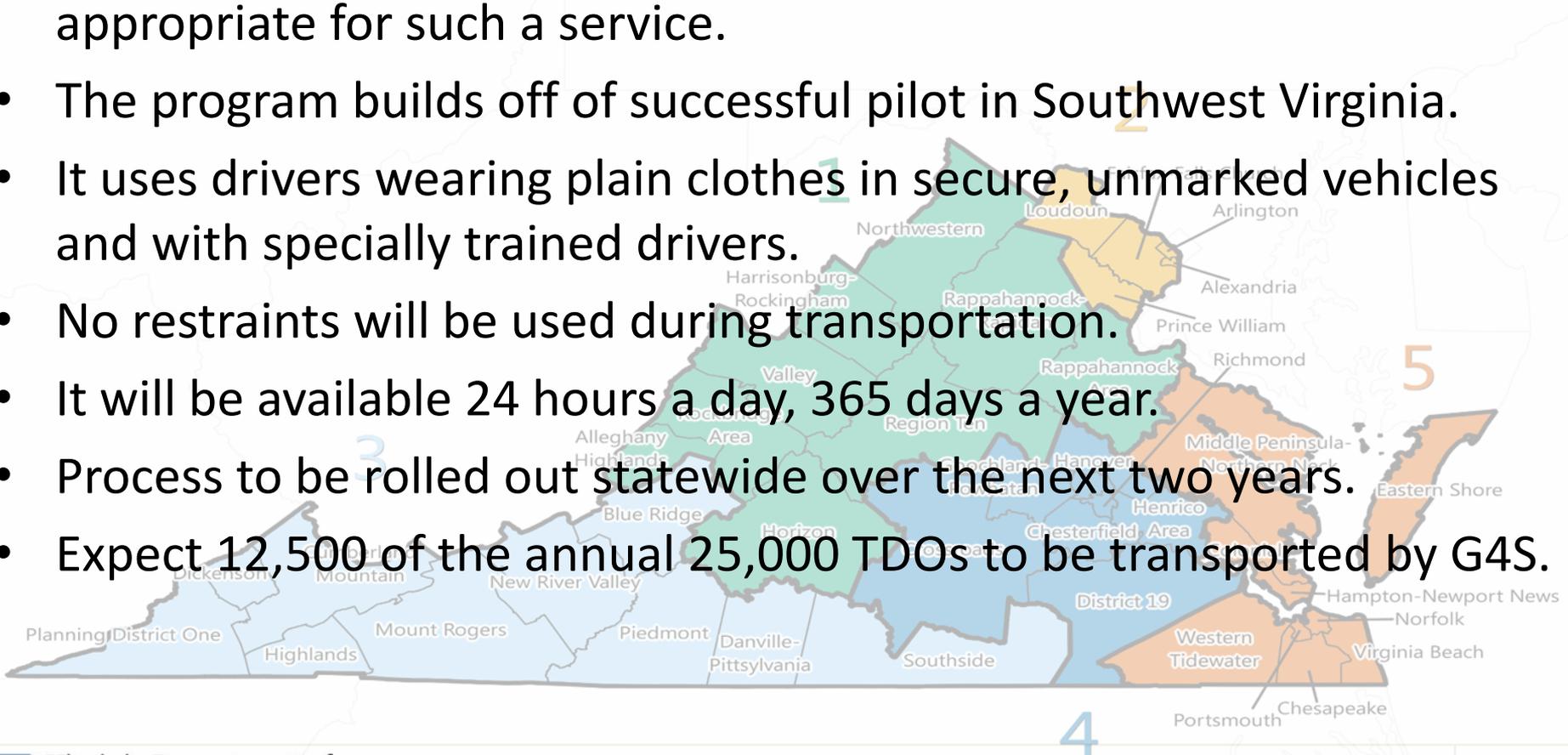
E. out of this appropriation, \$2,500,000 the first year and \$4,500,000 the second year from general fund shall be provided to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to provide alternative transportation for adults and children under a temporary detention order. The department shall structure the contract to phase in the program over a three-year period such that in year three the contract shall result in services state wide.

Alternative Transportation Pilot Project

- In 2015, DBHDS established a pilot program with Mount Rogers Community Services Board (CSB) in southwest Virginia to provide alternative transportation for adults under a TDO.
- DBHDS contracted with Steadfast Security, LLC to transport individuals.
- Over the 12 month pilot period, 40 percent of individuals were transported using alternative transportation services, which provided relief to law enforcement.
- Every individual in the pilot program was transported safely and securely.

What Is Statewide Alternative Transportation?

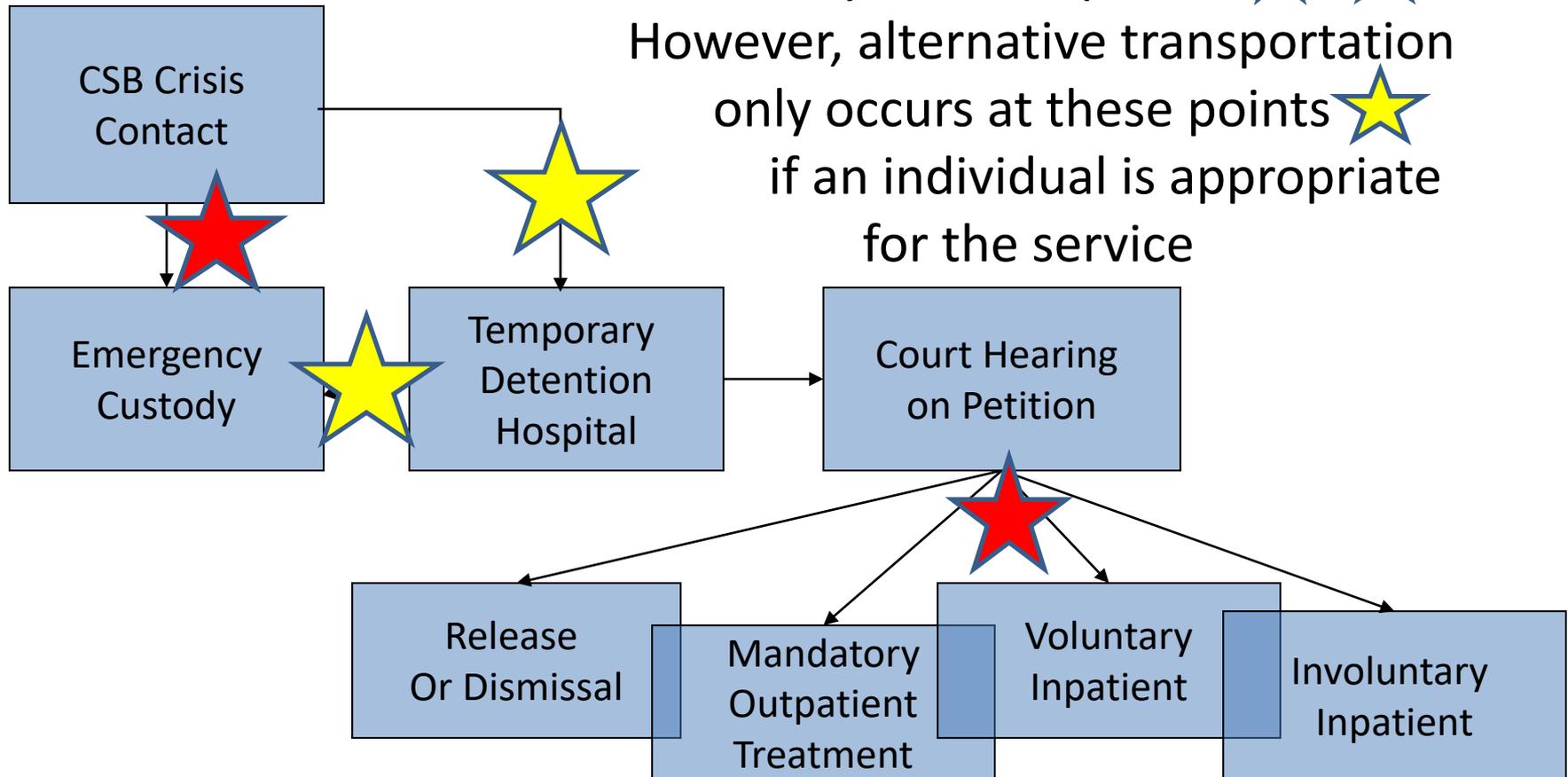
- G4S, a nationally recognized contractor for behavioral health security and transportation services, will provide alternative transportation for people under a TDO who are assessed to be appropriate for such a service.
- The program builds off of successful pilot in Southwest Virginia.
- It uses drivers wearing plain clothes in secure, unmarked vehicles and with specially trained drivers.
- No restraints will be used during transportation.
- It will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Process to be rolled out statewide over the next two years.
- Expect 12,500 of the annual 25,000 TDOs to be transported by G4S.



When is Alternative Transportation An Option?

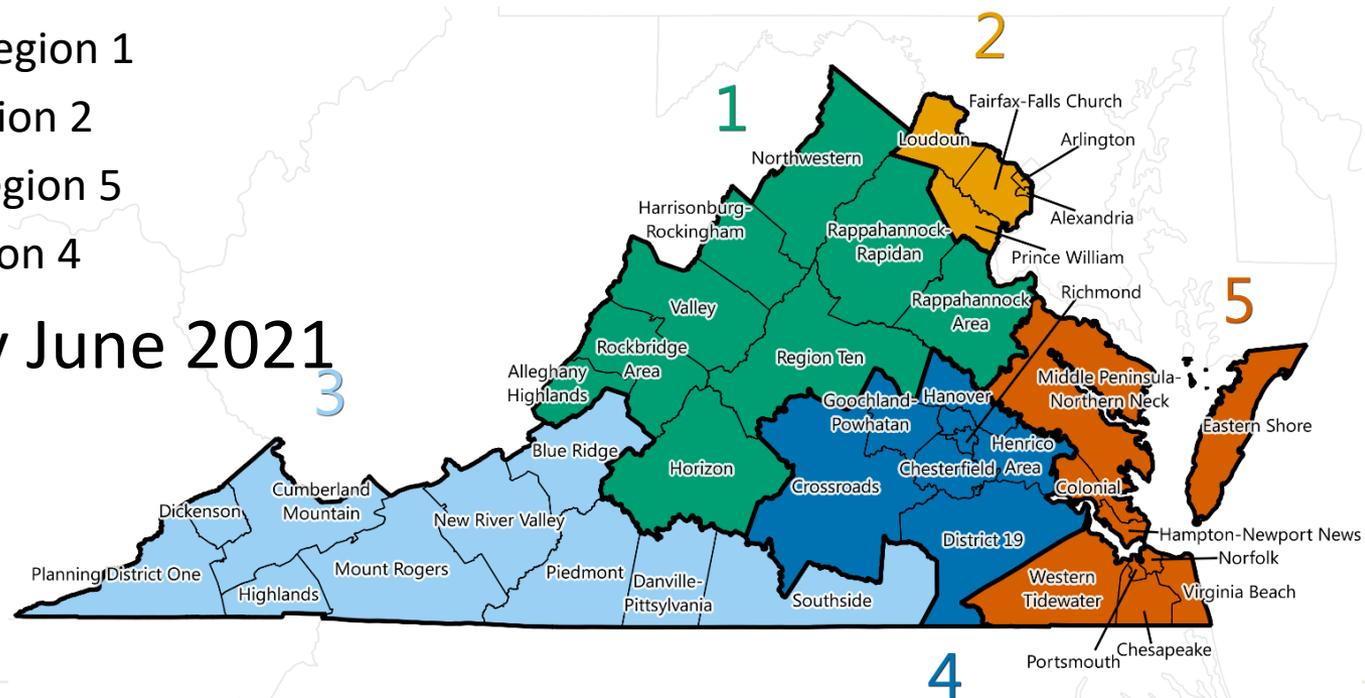
Transportation from one location to another may be needed at any of these points.  

However, alternative transportation only occurs at these points  if an individual is appropriate for the service



The Roll Out Schedule for Alternative Transportation

- DBHDS anticipates a three to four month roll out period for each region. It will begin with adults. A schedule for minors is under development.
- The preliminary roll out schedule for adults is:
 - First rollout Region 3
 - Second rollout Region 1
 - Third rollout Region 2
 - Fourth rollout Region 5
 - Fifth rollout Region 4
- Completed by June 2021



Key Stakeholders

- Regional Leads: CSB Executive Directors along with emergency service directors and regional managers
- Key Members:
 - Local law enforcement
 - Local magistrates
 - Local private hospitals
 - State Hospitals
 - Advocacy Organizations
 - Stakeholder Associations
 - The Supreme Court

Protocol Development & Implementation Status

- Alternative transportation will be available for adults and minors.
 - Adults: The VACSB Emergency Service Council chairs are reviewing the current adult protocols from the Mt. Rogers pilot and adapting them for statewide use.
 - Minors: Development of protocols for minors will begin in July in collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Stakeholder and planning meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - **Region 3b**: Monday, July 22 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Danville, VA
 - **Region 3a**: Friday, August 9th from 8 a.m. - noon Salem, VA
 - **Region 3**: Thursday, September 5th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Abingdon, VA
 - **Region 1**: Initial meeting with CSB executives in July

Contact Information

Gail L. Paysour

Alternative Transportation Coordinator

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services

1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA

Phone: 804-291-8011

Email: gail.paysour@dbhds.Virginia.gov