

RESOLUTION

OPPOSITION TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL

WHEREAS, Eastern State Hospital located in Williamsburg, Virginia, was established on October 12, 1773, as the first psychiatric hospital in the United States and has been continuously operated for 233 years; and

WHEREAS, the care being provided to the Commonwealth's most vulnerable population should not be left up to the forces of the marketplace, where corporate profits represent the primary motivation for the provision of services; and

WHEREAS, privatizing any portion of the Virginia public mental health system would be a speculative and experimental venture and, therefore, not appropriate because of the profound potential to adversely affect human lives; and

WHEREAS, a solid partnership exists between Eastern State Hospital, local governments, and Community Services Boards and privatization would change the balance as public funds would subsidize a for-profit corporation; and

WHEREAS, Eastern State Hospital is widely known to provide a high quality of inpatient psychiatric care for adult and geriatric citizens of Health Planning Region V (HPR-V) at billing rates far below those of the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Eastern State Hospital has continuously maintained Medicare and Medicaid Certification since this benefit's inception in 1967, and has maintained Accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nationally recognized agency that measures the quality of care in healthcare providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, supports the current efforts of the Governor and General Assembly to redesign and transform the current public mental health system from both the institutional and community perspective, always insuring that care is provided in a safe and least restrictive environment.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of James City strongly opposes any efforts to transfer the operation of Eastern State Hospital located in Williamsburg, Virginia, to the private sector.



Bruce C. Goodson

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

<u>SUPERVISOR</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
HARRISON	AYE
ICENHOUR	AYE
MCLENNON	AYE
BRADSHAW	AYE
GOODSON	AYE

ATTEST:



Sanford B. Wanner
Clerk to the Board

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 11th day of April, 2006.

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