



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor  
Transition Office

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor - elect

804 786-4100  
804 225-2016 (FAX)

December 16, 2009

Dear Children's Services Stakeholders:

I commend you for participating in this conference on Children's Services Transformation. Much effort has gone into the transformation initiative under the leadership of First Lady Anne Holton and significant positive results have been achieved.

Improving the lives of at-risk children and families is a noble goal. By making Virginia's families stronger we make Virginia stronger. I am proud that as Attorney General I issued an opinion declaring it illegal to force parents to give up custody of their children to gain access to vital mental health services. I then worked with Governor Tim Kaine to end that practice. Also, during my campaign for Governor I issued a clear policy statement recognizing the importance of community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services for children. My administration will work with those attending this conference to expand access to community care for Virginia's at-risk children.

Building on the positive work that already has been accomplished, continuing and expanding Children's Services Transformation will be a priority for my administration. We will work across the child serving systems to ensure that all at-risk children and families receive the services they need to stay together, to stay in or return to their home communities, to have lifelong connections to caring adults, and ultimately to live successful and productive lives.

I commend you for your dedication, congratulate you on your success so far, and ask you to work with my administration during the next four years on behalf of Virginia's at-risk children and their families.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor-elect of Virginia