The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) conducted trainings on the new ARTS benefit which included enhancing the GAP benefit plan to include the full ARTS continuum of care except inpatient/detox. DMAS staff traveled across the state to provide the public with an update on the status and progress of the ARTS implementation and the enhancement to the GAP benefit plan.

**Schedule and Locations:**

- **03/13/2017** Virginia Beach Total Attendees: 113
- **3/15/17** Varina Total Attendees 87
- **03/17/2017** Charlottesville Total Attendees 80
- **03/27/2017** Prince William Total Attendees 131
- **03/30/2017** Winchester Total Attendees 56
- **4/03/2017** Richmond Total Attendees 66
- **04/04/2017** Lebanon Total Attendees 66
- **04/05/2017** Roanoke Total Attendees 108
- **04/12/2017** Newport News Total Attendees 99

**Public Notice:**
DMAS posted notification of the trainings on the ARTS website and the DMAS training unit sent email blasts to providers that had provided DMAS email contacts/addresses. DMAS also sent notification to behavioral health consumer run programs (non-Medicaid providers) and to the SMI screening entities to alert them. ARTS staff provided significant notification in a variety of arenas.

**Public Comment Received:**
Enhancing the GAP benefit plan to include the full array of ARTS services was widely approved by the public attending the trainings. There arose confusion early in the trainings about how a provider could bill for ASAM residential services within a hospital setting since GAP does not cover inpatient services. In response, DMAS approached CMS about including language in the waiver amendment to allow this and CMS approved the September 2017 waiver amendment request which included this allowance.