

Legislature of the Virgin Islands



P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802
(340) 693-3571

The Honorable
Angel Bolques, Jr.
Senator-At-Large
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

MEMBER
Committee of the Whole
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety
Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure & Planning
Sub-Committee on Energy & Infrastructure Development

October 7, 2025,

Program Director Marsha Taylor
The Village – VI Partners in Recovery
#1 Estate Sion Hill
Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820

Re: Invitation to Testify – Legislative Hearing on Youth Mental Health and Public Safety

Dear Director Taylor,

I hope this letter finds you well. As Chair of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks, I am pleased to invite The Village – VI Partners in Recovery to testify at our legislative hearing on Friday, October 31, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at the Fritz E. Lawaetz Legislative Chamber on St. Croix.

You are requested to present during BLOCK I, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, which focuses on youth violence and the availability of behavioral health supports. Given The Village's role in the Territory as a provider of mental health, substance use, outpatient, and prevention services across youth and adult populations we respectfully ask that your testimony include:

- Programs currently offered to youth or adolescents (prevention, outpatient, counseling), including substance use or co-occurring disorder services.
- How your services integrate mental health, trauma care, and behavioral health best practices.
- The geographic reach and accessibility of your services across islands.
- Challenges you face in scaling youth-focused services (staffing, funding, facilities, referrals);
- Opportunities for better coordination with schools, health, justice, and community organizations to support youth resilience and interruption of harm.

If you are unable to attend, please designate someone familiar with your youth and behavioral health work to testify in your place. Written testimony should be submitted not later than 48 hours before the hearing.

Your service in the mental health and recovery arena is critical to our collective effort to heal and protect young people in our Territory. Thank you for your commitment. If you need further assistance or coordination, please let my office know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angel Bolques, Jr." in a cursive style.

The Honorable Angel Bolques, Jr.
Chair, Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, and Parks
Senator At Large, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands