

Virginia Mental Health Council Meeting
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
10128 W. Broad Street, Suite A
Glen Allen, VA 23060
February 15, 2012
10 AM

Minutes

Attendance: Katharine Hunter, James Martinez, Susan Williams, Ann Cutshall, Robert Friedline, James Johnson, Bonne Neighbour, Chris Owens, Brian Parrish, Selena Ruffin, Becky Sterling

Non-voting members and guests: Rhonda Thissen, Sarah Eisenman, Sherry Confer, Jamie Sachteder, Lemlien Ejo, Martina George-Fields, Millie Randall

Opening Business

President Susan Williams called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Based on the current attendance, a quorum was not established and voting cannot occur during this meeting.

Overview of SA council

Mellie Randall (guest), a representative of the Substance Abuse department of DBHDS provided an overview of the transition of the behavioral health services. She discussed how the mental health council might undertake becoming a Behavioral Health Council. In doing, Mellie attended this meeting to provide an overview of the current substance abuse council, its function, and requirements. Some of the concerns posed with margining the two councils are as follows:

The seats/persons listed on the BHC are listed in the code of which many are also represented on the MHPC.

There are only two seats for advocacy groups and/or peers.

The department now have three distinct offices but no new staff.

Code changes have to be made before July.

The state does not have the capability to provide staff support to both councils and since the same state rep. seats are represented on both councils, meeting attendance may be redundant.

Action item: The DBHDS will formalize a skeleton of what the Behavioral Health Council would like the council to look and have it ready by the April meeting for the council's review. This presentation will also serve as a starting point of how the BHC will function.

James Martinez, also provided an update of the transition at the State level of Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse services. As a result of the settlement agreement with DOJ for service agreement for persons with ID, the training centers in Virginia will close by 2018. The state is building a new facility to replace the current Western state hospital in Staunton.

2012 Officers Vote

The chairperson of the officers nominating committee was not present to present the officers for voting. Susan reported that both she and Mira are willing to continue as President and Vice President until voting of new officers has occurred. Susan reported that Donna Sue was not willing to continue as secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Beck Sterling pointed that her name should be added to absent. A motion was made to place approving the minutes on hold until a quorum is present.

DBHDS update

Rhonda Thissen reported that proposals for remaining block grants have been received and are being reviewed. There is a cap of \$15,000 per request so the funds will be distributed among several recipients. It was suggested that outcomes of services provided through block grant funded be provided to the council so as to prevent duplication of services and/or best practices.

Financial Report

Selena Ruffin from MHAV reported on the YTD expenses for the council. It was suggested that the council strongly consider having a retreat with the forming of the BHC pending. The council would like to wait until further guidance from the department on the outcome of the combining councils before making a determination to re-appropriate funds within the current budget.

Behavioral Health Planning Council Priorities

Susan reported results of attending a webinar provided by SAMHSA's Mental Health Council Assistance Center. The purpose of the webinar was to provide insight on for planning council becoming more effective with the MH block grant and the MH community? The webinar provided interesting data regarding plans and ideas to present to the General Assembly as well as regarding what's going on in the Virginia Mental health community compared to nationally. The webinar is archived and can be found at <http://www.bhtalk.org/home.aspx>.

Susan passed around a worksheet provided by the mental health council assistance center that will help the council determine What help it needs. Each member was asked to review the Technical Assistance Priorities and Requests form and determine the top 5 priority areas. Susan will provide a completed form to SAMHSA by March 1 based on the feedback given by the council members.

Closing business

In an effort to address the lack of attendance and its effect on a meeting quorum, the council decided to inform members in the announcement of the meeting that, according to the bylaws, anyone who fails to attend the next meeting and it is the third unexcused absence will automatically be removed from membership.

Upcoming meetings

April 18 Charlottesville
June 13 Richmond

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.