

Virginia Mental Health Planning Council
Albemarle County Office Building
1600 5th Street
Charlottesville, VA
April 18, 2012
Minutes

I. Attendance

Susan Williams, Betty Etzler, Katharine Hunter, Robert Friedline, Anne Burhans, Livia Jansen, Selena Ruffin, Bonnie Neighbour, Donna Wenzel, Becky Sterling, Chris Owens, Irene Walker-Bolton, Rhonda Thissen, Mira Signer, and Brian Parrish

II. Guests

Mary Vaughan-MHAV staff, Julie Truitt, and Mendy Meeks (for Sandra Brown).

III. Opening of Business

President Susan Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

IV, Welcome, Introductions, Public Comments, and Announcements

It was announced that Irene Walker-Bolton was retiring, that this would be her last Council meeting, and that she will be replaced on the Council by Dr. Wayne Barry. In addition, Donna Sue Harmon and Melissa Harless have resigned from the council.

It was also announced that, with immediate effect, Rhonda Thissen would take Jim Martinez' position as a member of the Council, as well as continue as the DBHDS liaison with the Council.

V, New Business

Anne Burhans presented a request for funding to attend a conference on elder abuse. She noted that a draft application proposal for such requests existed, and that her request met the requirements of this proposal. She also noted that in recent practice most such requests had been handled on an *ad hoc* basis by the Executive Committee. Becky Sterling moved that the council establish a policy that funding requests for conference support be voted on by the membership at large when time permits, with a decision by the executive committee only under the exigency of time. Rhonda Thissen seconded the motion. Bob Friedline and Donna Wenzel were asked to draft a Policy & Procedure Order to match the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Susan moved that the Council accept and approve Anne Burhans' funding request, as presented. Irene Walker-Bolton seconded the motion. Anne Burhans and Bonnie Neighbour abstained.

VI. Old Business

A. Correction and acceptance of past minutes

1. Noting that the Council had been unable to reach a quorum during the past several Meetings, President Williams requested that a motion be offered to accept and approve the minutes of these meetings. Becky Sterling moved that all past minutes, as corrected, be accepted. Bob Friedline seconded this motion and it was approved by unanimous consent.
2. A correction in the minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting was made. The DBHDS cap for new individual proposals for Block Grant funds is \$50,000, not \$15,000.

B. Election of Council Officers for 2012

With the resignation from the Council of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Melissa Harless, Chris Owens and Bob Friedline are the remaining members of the Nominating Committee. They reported that the Nominating Committee recommended that the Council re-elect the President and Vice-President and elect a new secretary. Nominations from the floor were sought from the council members. The duties of the council secretary, as stated in the bylaws, were read to the group. Bob Friedline agreed to serve as the Council Secretary provided there were no volunteers. There were none.

Bob Friedline moved that the recommendations of the Nominating Committee be accepted by the Council. Anne Burhans seconded the motion and it was approved by the Council membership unanimously, with each office being filled by a separate vote.

VII. New Business

A. Substance Abuse Services Council Report

Susan Williams attended a Substance Abuse Services Council (SASC) meeting. She reported that the integration of the Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) and the SASC is not feasible at this point. In an effort to incorporate co-occurring disorders, it was proposed that representatives from the SASC and its interested community be asked to join the MHPC. In addition, it was suggested that the MHPC conjoin with the SASC by accepting new functions that previously were exclusively in the realm of the SASC. A prime function of this change would be to ensure that duplication of services/efforts does not happen. The SASC council invited MHPC members to attend its meetings.

With the introduction of the additional functions, the MHPC will represent both mental health and substance abuse interests. Further, following the recommendation of the MHPC's Bylaws and Policy Committee, it was suggested that the name of the MHPC be changed to make it consistent with SAMHSA policy requiring the amalgamation of mental health and substance abuse functions as a condition of future Block Grants.

B. Behavioral Health Report

Susan Williams submitted to SAMHSA a report it requested providing MPHC input on the creation of behavioral health councils. Rhonda Thissen reported that 10 states have formally conjoined their mental health and substance councils.

C. Council Membership

With the change in Council functions, the question of “who should be included on the council” was discussed. SAARA was suggested, as were public and private treatment providers, and representatives from the SA, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Department of Education (Dr. Wright). Other suggestions included the DRS, a provider of shelter for the homeless (VA Supportive Housing), and a SA residential provider. It was recommended that someone from the BHAV attend a meeting of this latter group.

A suggestion was made that the Council should publicize its membership vacancies. President Williams proposed that draft letters of invitation to join the Council be prepared and tasked Bob Friedline to draft 2 letters for this purpose. One letter, to be signed by Commissioner Stewart, would be sent to state agencies. The other, to be signed by the Council President, would be used to contact non-governmental individuals and organizations. Council members were also requested to give further consideration to the membership issue and forward their recommendations for new members via e-mail to the Council Secretary. These suggestions are to be discussed at a future meeting of the BHAV.

In addition, the Membership and Training Committee agreed to draft an explanatory letter/general information pamphlet for use by members of the Council in discussions with persons from non-traditional sources of interest.

D. Regulating and managing Council involvement with the Block Grant

The Bylaws and Policy Committee was charged with revising the Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect the modifications in form and function of the Council as a consequence of the decisions reached at this meeting. Anne Burhans and Bob Friedline agreed to accept this task.

E. Budget

Rhonda Thissen reported the following items are listed in the conference committee report of the Virginia General Assembly.

- Increase case management rate for Part C from \$120 to \$132
- 225 new H&CB ID Community Waiver slots (biennium)
- 80 new DD Waiver slots (biennium)
- continue exemption for antipsychotics from DMAS Preferred Drug List
- DBHDS Commissioner to develop plan for closure of Training Centers within one year of a settlement agreement effective date
- \$3.25 M over biennium (1.5M + 1.75M) for child psychiatry and child crisis stab services
- \$600K each year for law enforcement drop off capability at CIT sites
- \$600K in FY 13 only for continued operation of 13 beds at NVMHI with DBHDS to find money needed to continue these beds for a full year's operation through FY 13, and DBHDS to develop a long-term funding plan for these beds.

The State also received an increase of \$821,344 in block grant funds. The Council suggested that the funds be used as follows:

- discharge assistance plan
- expanding pact programs
- expand peer run programs
- certification for case managers
- suicide prevention

Susan Williams agreed to send a communication to Commissioner Stewart on behalf of the Council supporting this proposal.

F. Bylaws and Policy Committee

The Bylaws and Policy Committee proposed, and the Council recommended, three changes to the Council's Bylaws:

1. To change the name of the organization to "Behavioral Health Advisory Council of Virginia". This was endorsed unanimously.
2. To create a Block Grant Evaluation and Monitoring Committee by combining the existing Budget and Funding Committee with the existing Evaluation and Monitoring Committee. Within the new committee there would be three subcommittees (previously existing committees), the Adult Services Subcommittee, the Child and Adolescent Subcommittee, and the Elder Services Subcommittee. This was unanimously approved.
3. A function was added to the new committee providing that a representative from the Committee be available to serve on DBHDS evaluation committees that decide on discretionary block grant funding. This was unanimously approved.

G. New Members

Three applicants for membership on the Council were presented and unanimously elected. They are Patricia Griggs, Tammy Farmer and Lynn DeLaMer. They will be invited to the next meeting

H. Meeting Venue

Anne Burhans made a motion that all future meetings of the Council be held in Richmond because this site seemed to facilitate attendance by State Government representatives and most of the service provider and advocate representatives on the Council. Susan Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with three nays and one abstention.

I. Upcoming Meetings

Dates for future meetings in 2012 were agreed to be June 13th, August 15th, October 24th and December 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm.